



Wabun Sun

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Wabun Health Hosts Youth Suicide Prevention Workshop

Wabun Health Services sponsored a Youth Suicide Prevention Workshop in Timmins March 24 to 26, 2009. The workshop was organized for youth from Wabun First Nations. Clayton Small, a recognized presenter on issues concerning First Nation youth, facilitated the three day event.

The first day of the three day event was dedicated to meeting with youth, their chaperones and other adults to study the 'Native Youth Training Manual'. Wabun Health Services has featured this manual over several workshops in an effort to coordinate several education sessions to deal with the issues of youth suicide. In the fall of 2008, Wabun Health hosted a Men's and Women's Wellness Conference for adult Wabun First Nation members which included training and education with the 'Native Youth Training Manual'.

"We are trying to build a series of workshops that will educate and help our communities at every level. We want to help the parents and other adults in the communities so that we can work with our First Nations in



WABUN HEALTH SERVICES HOSTED A SUICIDE PREVENTION WORKSHOP IN TIMMINS ON MARCH 24 TO 26, 2009. SEATED ON THE FLOOR FROM L-R ARE: MARGARET QUAKEGESIC, IVAN MCKAY AND GERALD LUKE. SEATED IN CHAIRS IN SECOND ROW FROM L-R ARE: CATHY NAVEAU, ROBIN CHOKOMOLIN, RACHEL CHOKOMOLIN, JAMIE LYNN MCWATCH, KOURTNEY BAULNE, JAIMEE ROY, AARON LOCKWOOD, BILLY BABIN AND SANDRA ROY. THIRD ROW STANDING, IN BACK FROM L-R ARE: JEAN LEMIEUX, HEALTH DIRECTOR, WABUN HEALTH SERVICES; CRYSTAL MALLETT, TYLER J MATHEWS, MELISSA BLACK, DYLAN BOISSONEAU, DAVID PAUL, SKYLARD REDBREAST, APRIL BAULNE, LELAND WHEESK, CHERYL ST.DENIS AND BLAKE BAULNE. FOURTH ROW STANDING, IN BACK FROM L-R ARE: CHAD NAVEAU, BONNIE SACKANEY, LORLEI MATHEWS, WINTER CHOKOMOLIN, TRENT AGAWA, ELMER TANGJE, TYLER NAVEAU, GRAYSON LUKE, RODNEY MCWATCH, EILEEN BOISSONEAU, JAMES DELUCE AND CLAYTON SMALL, WORKSHOP FACILITATOR.

a holistic approach rather than trying to address everything in a single workshop or event," said Mike Archer, Crisis Team Coordinator, Wabun Health Services.

He explained that the Native Youth Training Manual is continually being used in several different workshops for adults in the communities and for front line Health Care workers and Health

professionals in the First Nations.

The remaining two days of the workshop were dedicated to the youth participants. The facilitator led discussion and education on suicide prevention skills and peer support. Small, a northern Cheyenne Native American who is based in Albuquerque New Mexico, led the participants during the

workshop. He is an aboriginal leadership specialist that promotes primary suicide intervention techniques. Small also holds a Masters in Education and once held the position of secondary school principal.

"Clayton came highly recommended as a facilitator for our workshop and he has given us a whole new perspective on training and

education concerning youth suicide issues," said Archer.

He explained that the Wabun Health workshops over the past year are meant to connect with youth and help them deal with issues of suicide.

"We want to give our youth the skills they need to deal with these issues, the knowledge and awareness to identify these topics in themselves and in others and to understand that there are people out there in the community who are willing to help them if they need it," said Archer.

He added that the development of these workshops came out of a need from the First Nations to create an inclusive and holistic approach to community health. In 2008, Wabun Health Services received \$300,000 in funding from the National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy to develop programming and

Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation and Brunswick House First Nation Partner On Biomass

Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation and Brunswick House First Nation are partnering with M & L Waste Management Incorporated on the development of a proposed biomass power plant project in the town of Chapleau. The two Wabun Tribal Council First Nations will be signing a limited partnership agreement with the company in the near future which will allow the communities a minority ownership in the completed

project. A Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) was signed by the communities with M & L Waste Management Incorporated in the summer of 2008 at the early stages of project planning.

"We appreciated the fact that the M & L Waste Management leadership came to us to create this partnership. This arrangement will provide training and employment for our members in the project

development and in the operation of the plant, as well as a revenue sharing component for our First Nation," said Kevin Tangie, Economic Development Officer for Brunswick House First Nation.

Wabun Tribal Council representatives provided assistance in the negotiation stages and in developing the agreements that were created.

"We are happy to have

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**CHIEF RENE OJEBAH,
BRUNSWICK HOUSE
FIRST NATION**

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Wabun First Nations Sign Exploration Agreement With Lake Shore Gold

Four Wabun Tribal Council First Nations are reaping short and long term benefits through a working relationship with Lake Shore Gold Corp in their development of a significant gold mine in the Timmins area. Flying Post, Matachewan, Mattagami and Wahgoshig First Nations signed an Exploration Agreement with Lake Shore Gold Corp concerning the development of the company's Bell Creek Project eight kilometres north of South Porcupine in Timmins. The agreement was signed at the Wabun Tribal Council Complex in Timmins, March 10, 2009.

"We Are Supportive Of This Agreement", Chief Babin

This is the second such agreement signed by Lake Shore Gold Corp and Wabun First Nations. In July 2008 the company signed an agreement with Flying Post and Mattagami First Nations regarding the Timmins West Gold property, 18 kilometers west of Timmins.

"The economy is not doing so well right now and mining in certain areas is one of our few bright spots, so we are supportive of this agreement which should lead to an Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) and future employment and training for our people down the road," said Chief Dave Babin, Wahgoshig First Nation.

Anthony P. Makuch, President, CEO, Director, Lake Shore Gold Corp congratulated Wabun Tribal Council and its First Nation Chiefs for their support of the Bell Creek project.

"Today's signing is an important achievement for the project, which we expect to provide long-term benefits to the Timmins area and our First Nation neighbours," said Makuch.

The Wabun Chiefs expressed an interest in working with Lake Shore Gold Corp as the company continues ongoing development on the Bell Creek Project.

"This agreement is an acknowledgement by a major resource company that we should be consulted with and included in development on our traditional lands,"

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WABUN FIRST NATIONS SIGN ON AN EXPLORATION AGREEMENT WITH LAKE SHORE GOLD CORP IN SUPPORT OF THE BELL CREEK PROJECT IN TIMMINS AT A CEREMONY AT THE WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL OFFICE COMPLEX MARCH 10. FROM L-R ARE: ANTHONY P. MAKUCH, PRESIDENT, CEO, DIRECTOR, LAKE SHORE GOLD CORP; CHIEF ELENORE HENDRIX, MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION; CHIEF DAVE BABIN, WAHGOSHIG FIRST NATION; CHIEF MURRAY RAY, FLYING POST FIRST NATION AND CHIEF WALTER NAVEAU, MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION.

Reflections

by Shawn Batise, Executive Director



We are all dealing with the reality of a severe downturn in the economy. This comes at a time when Wabun Tribal Council has been actively involved in signing agreements with resource developers. Many of our First Nations are working with mining companies who are conducting exploration and some who have produced working mines. These developments have really come into being over the past few years and it has been a welcome change from a history where we as First Nations people have been left out of the loop.

The crash in the economy has impacted us as we are not enjoying the same rapid pace in terms of signing agreements with and partnering with resource developers in the Wabun Tribal Council area. Mining exploration has dropped off substantially due to the fact that funds have dried up from investors. The markets are pretty much in a

holding pattern right now and if the necessary funding for projects has not already been allocated for exploration and development then that probably means a pause in activity as it relates to our involvement with resource development projects. However, on the positive side this lull in development gives our tribal council staff and Chiefs the opportunity take the time to do more research in determining what future opportunities will be coming our way. This pause will also allow us to better strategise in terms of negotiating and dealing with any resource developments that are targeted in and around our lands.

Things have been developing so fast over the past few years that it was difficult to keep up with the pace. Now we have time to review the agreements we have signed and put some monitoring strategies in place. This is a good time to move our people ahead with training in mining and other resource development areas so that we are ready when the market rebounds and developments return.

We all know that it is just a matter of time before these dark days of the global economy are a thing of the past that we can talk about for years to come. In terms of

projects already funded and underway we are experiencing some advantage as a result of the poor condition of the economy. In fact the cost of some projects have been reduced. This is due of course to a reduced rate for labour, steel, wood and construction supplies.

Wabun Tribal Council and its First Nations are in a good position to weather this economic storm and perhaps even benefit in the long run. We certainly should be benefiting from the three hundred billion dollar stimulus package the federal government has launched across the country. This is a great time for us to take advantage of the opportunity to proceed with some infrastructure and related developments in our communities.

When it comes right down to it, as First Nation people we have mostly had to deal with a life of living on the edge of the economy. We have had to survive in many instances in third world conditions while we have been historically left out of the loop in all kinds of resource developments on and near our traditional lands over the past century. We have a lot of experience when it comes to hard economic times.

Walter Naveau Re-elected As Chief Of Mattagami FN



CHIEF WALTER NAVEAU, MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION

Walter Naveau was elected Chief Of Mattagami First Nation

April 6, 2009. Chief Naveau is now enjoying his second term as the First Nation leader. He has been involved in leadership positions in the community for many years.

"It is a very high privilege for me to represent Mattagami First Nation as Chief. I thank community members and all council and staff for the support and encouragement they continue to show me," said Chief Naveau.

Four Wabun Communities Partner With Gold Mining Company

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said Chief Murray Ray, Flying Post First Nation.

Chief Elenore Hendrix of Matachewan First Nation sees a trend to more positive interaction between Native communities and resource developers.

"I see the mining industry and others becoming more open to negotiations and agreements with our First Nations. That is good news for everybody," said Chief Hendrix.

"They Are The Pace Setters For Others In The Mining Industry," Chief Naveau

Mattagami's Chief, Walter Naveau pointed out that Lake Shore Gold should be commended for making the effort to meet with the Wabun Chiefs regarding mining developments.

"It has really been a pleasure to work with Lake Shore Gold as they

are the pace setters for others in the mining industry in terms of negotiating with and partnering with our First Nations," said Chief Walter Naveau, Mattagami First Nation.

Brian Hagan, Executive Vice President, Lake Shore Gold Corp explained that this new Exploration Agreement will continue with the company's philosophy of working with First Nations in regards to resource development.

"As a company we want to do our best to help the local community and work with nearby First Nations. This new agreement is a continuation of working with First Nations and as we move forward, it is important for us to maintain strong relations with the Native community," said Hagan.

Shawn Batise, Executive Director of Wabun Tribal Council has been involved in working with Wabun First Nation Chiefs in developing several agreements with resource development initiatives in Northeastern



AN EXPLORATION AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM FOUR WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL FIRST NATIONS AND LAKE SHORE GOLD CORP ON MARCH 10, 2009 AT THE WABUN OFFICE COMPLEX IN TIMMINS. FROM L-R (BACK ROW) ARE: CHIEF ELENORE HENDRIX, MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION; BRIAN HAGAN, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, LAKE SHORE GOLD CORP; JAMES NAVEAU, COUNCILLOR, MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION AND SHAWN BATISE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL. SEATED IN FRONT ARE FROM L-R: ANTHONY P. MAKUCH, PRESIDENT, CEO, DIRECTOR, LAKE SHORE GOLD CORP; CHIEF DAVE BABIN, WAHGOSHIG FIRST NATION; CHIEF MURRAY RAY, FLYING POST FIRST NATION AND CHIEF WALTER NAVEAU, MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION.

Ontario.

"It is reassuring to see a major company such as Lake Shore Gold entering into agreements with our First Nations. Their willingness to work with our communities is a testament to their commitment to deal with First Nations," said Batise.

Wabun Tribal Council and Mattagami First Nation began talking with Lake

Shore Gold in September 2006, as part of an overall consultation with resource development companies operating on or near Wabun traditional lands. The resulting Exploration Agreement provides the First Nations with consulting and advisory services, employment and training options, business opportunities, ongoing com-

munication and environmental consultation. Lake Shore Gold Corp is a mineral exploration company with a number of mineral properties located in northern Ontario and Quebec. The Bell Creek Project is an amalgamation of the Bell Creek mine and mill site as well as the Schumacher and Vogel claim blocks. The area includes a mill, underground mine workings and a head frame that includes a hoist room and office building. The Bell Creek property was originally operated by Canamax in the late 1980s until 1991 when it was acquired by Falconbridge Gold Corp. The property was then taken over by Kinross Gold Corp in 1993 which operated the site for a short period before shutting down a year later. The Bell Creek property sat idle for many years until it was acquired by Lake Shore Gold in 2007.

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, resource development, health, engineering and business. The applicant must also include a proof of academic performance or a recent transcript.

Wabun Tribal Council, as a regional territorial organization, represents seven First Nation communities in northeastern Ontario and it is directed by its respective Chiefs.

Wabun Tribal Council 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, Wabun Health Services, Northern Telephone, Ontario Power Generation and Cecchetto & Sons.

This year's recipients include: Kara Huard of Matachewan FN who won a \$1,800.00 WTC/Tweed & Hickory Award; Randi Ray of Flying Post FN who won a \$1,200.00 WTC / Mattagami Con-

struction Award; Marina Thompson of Matachewan FN who won a \$1,200.00 WTC / Mattagami Construction Award; Isabelle Woods of Brunswick House FN who won a \$1,000.00 WTC / Northern Telephone Award; James McKay of Mattagami FN who won a \$750.00 WTC/Tweed & Hickory Award; Caitlyn Lefebvre of Mattagami FN who won a \$750.00 WTC / Ontario Power Generation Award; Lorraine Giroux of Brunswick House FN who won a \$500.00 WTC / Northgate Minerals Award; Chris Lefebvre of Mattagami FN who won a \$500.00 WTC / Northern Telephone Award and Angela Pitre of Flying

Post FN who won a \$500.00 WTC / Cecchetto & Sons Award.

"The Wabun Tribal Council Scholarship Award Program is getting bigger and better every year thanks to the support of our sponsors. I encourage those Wabun members currently enrolled in post secondary studies to apply for these awards," said Shawn Batise, Executive Director, Wabun Tribal Council.

Anyone interested in applying for the 2010 Wabun Scholarship Fund should do so before February 15, 2010. The scholarship application is open to any Wabun Tribal Council First Nation

Wahgoshig Signs MOU With Constantine Metals Amid Flurry Of Mining Activity

Wahgoshig First Nation established a mining partnership with Constantine Metals Resources Inc. with the signing of a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) on February 7, 2009. The MOU concerns the development of the company's gold mine on its Croesus property near Matheson, Ontario.



**CHIEF DAVE BABIN,
WAHGOSSHIG FIRST NATION**

"This is another opportunity for our community in terms of development and in creating partnerships with the mining community. This agreement will ensure that our people will be provided with training, employment opportunities and business possibilities as well," said Chief Dave Babin, Wahgoshig First Nation.

The MOU with Constantine Metal Resources Ltd. will also provide Wahgoshig First Nation with a financial component.

The partnership was negotiated for Wahgoshig by Dan Stubbe, Lands and Resources and Gerry Kerr, Consultant for Wahgoshig FN. In regards to Constantine Metals Resources Ltd. the process was led by Garfield MacVeigh, President; Tara Christie, Director and Wayne Livingstone, Director. The negotiations process also included an archaeological study of the mining area.

Chief Babin explained that his First Nation is looking forward to further development and partnering with the mining

community. During the negotiations phase, Constantine Metal Resources Ltd sponsored a driller helper training program which resulted in six Wahgoshig First Nation members receiving in class and hands on training.

"Considering that Constantine is a relatively small company, the driller helper training program was a big commitment by the company. We were happy to see that the graduates of this training program are now currently employed as drillers or in other areas of the mining industry," said Mary Boyden, Mining Initiatives Development Officer for Wahgoshig FN.

Boyden's position was created by Wahgoshig First Nation leadership to implement the different agreements that the community has entered into with mining and exploration companies within their First Nation territory.

"Our members are happy with the creation of this partnership with Constantine Metals Resources. The company directors have a positive and enthusiastic connection with the community and they have taken the time to develop a rewarding relationship with our First Nation," said Boyden.

Due to the current global financial situation, exploration and junior mining companies such as Constantine have not entered into drilling programs this year. However, Constantine Metal Resources Ltd. has utilized community services to continue other geological work.

The Croesus property has a mining history that dates back to 1915 and it has been active for many decades. The company has a direct history to the mining site as the current president Garfield MacVeigh's father was the

original geologist who worked on the property during the 1940s and 1950s. As a teenager, MacVeigh toiled with his father on the mine property. In 2007, MacVeigh was able to acquire the property under Constantine Metal Resources Ltd. The high grade past producing Croesus mine which operated from 1915 to 1933 is part of the Munro-Croesus property. This mine was made famous by its production of some of the highest grade gold ever mined in Ontario.

"There has been a healthy change in our community and the esteem and the confidence of our people has been lifted,"
Chief Babin

In total, Wahgoshig First Nation is currently participating in seven different agreements with mining companies in northeastern Ontario. All these agreements provide the community with considerations for training, employment, business development and consultation on environmental issues.

Chief Babin explained the partnering and relationship building that has taken place in the past few years has created positive benefits for his people.

"There has been a healthy change in our community and the esteem and confidence of our people has been lifted. They feel good about themselves because they are involved in meaningful employment. We want to build on this and create more training services to help our young people

become involved so that they can enjoy a better future," said Chief Babin.

Wahgoshig First Nation is also taking the initiative to become actively involved in developing businesses and services for the mining industry that can be owned and operated by the First Nation. The First Nation is looking to establishing its own drilling company and using local individuals that have received training in this field to manage and develop this initiative.

"There are several companies that are continuing their explorations in our territory. Since we are acquiring trained individuals to do the drilling operations, it makes sense to develop our own company to provide this service," said Chief Babin.

In addition, the community is also developing on site storage services for the mining industry such as core shacks. These buildings are used by mining companies to store and analyze core samples from their drilling operations.

"There is not a lot of revenue to be generated from building and maintaining core shacks. However, it does provide seasonal and temporary employment for our community members, as well as experience in the mining industry," said Chief Babin.

He added that due to the low population of his community, it is a challenge to meet the demands for a workforce.

"We are trying to take advantage of every opportunity we can to develop our community. However, it is difficult to find enough people to fill positions. In the future, this demand will benefit our community as our youth get the necessary training and take on these employment positions," said Chief Babin.

APOLLOGOLD BLACK FOX PROJECT UPDATES

In terms of ongoing partnerships, Chief Babin explained that his community's relationship with Apollo Gold Corporation is providing economic and employment benefits for his First Nation. Wahgoshig First Nation signed an Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) with Apollo Gold in January 2009. The agreement concerns the development of the company's Black Fox Project, east of Matheson, Ontario. Maurice J. Kistabish was selected by the company and the community to act as IBA Coordinator. Kistabish is a member of Wahgoshig First Nation and has been involved in resource development issues for many years.



**MAURICE KISTABISH,
APOLLO GOLD / WAHGOSSHIG
IBA COORDINATOR**

Wahgoshig First Nation leadership is creating a more direct business relationship with Apollo Gold and the development of the Black Fox Project. In the fall of 2008, Wahgoshig FN established an agreement with Acon Group Inc. through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Leo Alarie and Sons Construction Ltd. to form a joint venture with the First Nation to establish a business under the operating name of Wahgoshig Alarie Construction. This business partnership acquired a \$15 million contract to

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Biomass Power Plant Project Moving Ahead With Wabun

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been involved in the development of this partnership. The First Nation membership is excited about this project as it provides both First Nations communities the opportunity to partner in a major project. As well it will lead to employment and training for our people," said Jason Batise, Economic Development and Technical Services Advisor, Wabun Tribal Council.



JASON BATISE,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT /
TECHNICAL SERVICES ADVISOR,
WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Chief Anita Stephens of Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation represented her community and Tangie acted on behalf of Brunswick House First Nation in the negotiation process. Chief Rene Ojeebah,

Brunswick House FN and First Nation Councils from both communities also provided guidance and support for the initiative.

Batise worked closely with the two First Nations in the negotiation process providing his knowledge and experience in developing similar partnership agreements in recent years. Batise as well as the Wabun Tribal Council organization has been involved in creating and establishing several different types of similar agreements with mining, forestry and hydro development companies in the Wabun territory.

"This project will provide the First Nations with jobs and employment in all stages and the opportunity to realize a long term revenue stream as a partner in the development," said Batise.

Brunswick House First Nation is well prepared and equipped to provide additional resources and an available workforce to support the power plant development.

"Many of our First Nation members are trained in forestry operations and we have plenty of equipment

resources that can be used to collect and transport wood waste to the power plant. This project will create many opportunities for all our communities in the Chapleau area and will result in a much needed boost to our collective economy," said Tangie.



KEVIN TANGIE,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
OFFICER, BRUNSWICK HOUSE
FIRST NATION

The Chapleau Biomass Project is being developed by a consortium of business entities including M & L Waste Management Inc. in the town of Chapleau; Sunbay Energy Corporation of Toronto; Toromont-CAT, a division of Toromont Industries Limited in Ontario; PRM Energy Systems based in Arkansas and Europlasma, based in France.

The completed project, which will be located at the old Weyerhaeuser mill site in the town of Chapleau, will be a ten Megawatt (10 MW) power plant using wood-fibre biomass as the primary feedstock. An investment of \$56 million is projected for establishing the project in Chapleau. The biomass system which was developed in Europe, is designed to gasify scrap railway ties, slash piles and other forestry materials to create a fuel gas that will be reformed and cleaned by a device called a plasma torch. This process will create gas with a high heating value which will power generators designed by Toromont Industries to produce electrical power.

The generated electricity will be sold to the provincial power grid. As an addition to the project, a pelletizer facility will also be built which will

create wood pellets that can be sold as a fuel replacement for coal. The consortium is hoping to start building in early 2009 and to see the power plant begin operations in late 2010 or early 2011, if planning runs as scheduled.

The project planners have estimated an annual input into the local economy of \$2.5 million while also indirectly supporting local businesses such as Tembec, Niska North, a specialty wood products company and CP Rail. Several initial employment positions will be created during the construction phase of the project and an estimated 34 permanent positions and additional spin off employment opportunities will realize for the town and the partnering First Nations.



CHIEF ANITA STEPHENS,
CHAPLEAU OJIBWE FIRST
NATION

The project was initiated by Larry Lacroix and Rene Tremblay who established M & L Waste Management in 2006 at a time when Chapleau's forestry businesses were in decline. Since then, the two local entrepreneurs have sought out project development to rebuild the town's economy. The idea of a biomass power plant was born out of the fact that Chapleau is ideally located in terms of the necessary resources. The town is a railway spur of the CP Rail network, which gives it access to railway facilities and a ready supply of discarded railway ties. Chapleau is also a central location for a number of nearby forestry operations that generate a large amount of forestry waste.

Batise explained that the

project development will possibly spread to other areas in the Wabun territory. M & L Waste Management is considering developing a similar project in the Shining Tree area, south of Timmins. Batise added that this could provide other Wabun First Nations, an opportunity to partner with the company in the same way that Chapleau Ojibwe and Brunswick House First Nations have in Chapleau.

DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS A GOOD IDEA

Brunswick House First Nation is taking the initiative to seek out potential partnerships and agreements in the development of natural resources within their traditional territories. Tangie pointed out that his community is currently working on several projects with resource development companies with the goal of providing their First Nation with more employment and business opportunities for the future.

"Establishing partnerships is the way to get things done for our First Nations. When we are able to work with other entities and businesses, we are able to do more to access funding and opportunities as a team. This also applies to working with communities inside our Tribal Council and also with other First Nations. Partnerships are what we need to prosper and grow," said Tangie.

He added that the continued development of several different projects and potential partnerships is fostering a positive attitude in Brunswick House First Nation.

"The community is realizing how we can all benefit from these projects. There is a sense of new life coming to our First Nation and everyone is hopeful for a better future. Spirits are up and we are working hard to keep the ball rolling," said Tangie.

Wahgoshig FN Signs MOU

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excavate and construct mine access roads and construct overburden disposal sites in the Black Fox Project.

"Participating in a partnership with another company to build the mine meant that our people could work directly for Apollo Gold instead of being employed by sub contractors. This arrangement has meant more secure employment for our members," said Chief Babin.

The increased participation and activity of the First Nation to seek out employment and business opportunities in the mining industry has had positive effects for the community as a whole.

"The willingness of companies to work with our First Nation has given us the incentive to build on these opportunities. The fact that our members are being hired on for more secure employment positions is also a good sign for our people," said Chief Babin.

He added that the creation of employment opportunities is motivating local youth.

"We are trying to encourage our youth to look forward to jobs and opportunities. There are more permanent jobs now, instead of seasonal employment and this change is helping our youth become more confident in their community and their own future," said Chief Babin.

Wabun First Nations Benefit From Major Training Program



PRE EMPLOYMENT INSTRUCTORS WERE HONOURED FOR THEIR GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT DURING THE MAATS TRAINING PROGRAM. HERE IS GRADUATE RONALD BLUEBIRD PRESENTING A GIFT TO LINDA WINCIKABY, PRE EMPLOYMENT INSTRUCTOR.

Forty six Aboriginal people are preparing for employment in the mining industry thanks to a training program through the cooperative efforts of the Federal and Provincial Governments, Northgate Minerals Corp and Wabun First Nations. The trainees who participated in the Matachewan Aboriginal Access to mining jobs Training Strategy (MAATS) were honoured in a graduation ceremony Tuesday, March 31 in Matachewan First Nation.

Chief Richard Wincikaby, Matachewan

First Nation, expressed gratitude at the participation of so many individuals in the pre employment training program.

"This is a very significant event for our community as it is promoting and helping our First Nation people find the training they need that can lead to employment in the mining sector. It is also important to recognize that the partnership we have created with our Wabun First Nations, the government, the education sector and the mining industry will benefit

everyone in the long run," said Chief Wincikaby.

Two of the graduates, Linda Batisse and Ronald Bluebird spoke to the gathering in their honour.

"We would like to thank everyone involved with MAATS. We all have dreams of great deeds and higher positions and this pre employment training program has given us the will and inspiration to achieve whatever we want," said Linda Batisse.

Jason Batise, MAATS Board Chair and Wabun Tribal Council representative, pointed out that this training project was a huge undertaking for the First Nations involved and the partners that contributed.

"On behalf of the board of directors we want to congratulate the graduating class. This initiative is a huge investment, not only by the community but by industry and the province and we thank everyone involved," said Jason Batise.

The MAATS pre employment training program provided an introduction to the mining industry and training in first aid and WHMIS. Participants also received career testing to develop a personalized employment or training plan. The

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MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION HOSTED GRADUATES THAT TOOK PART IN THE PRE EMPLOYMENT TRAINING PROGRAM. FRONT ROW FROM L R ARE ANN BOUCHER, LINDA BATISSE, JULIE PARROTT, JACQUELINE BOUCHER AND KATE WEBSTER, PRE EMPLOYMENT INSTRUCTOR. SECOND ROW FROM L R ARE FLORENCE BATISSE, CARRIE GILBERT AND SAMANTHA LAFRANCE. BACK ROW FROM L R ARE DARYL FOURNIER AND JORDAN SECORD.



THE GIFT OF EDUCATION WAS CELEBRATED AT A GRADUATION GATHERING, IN MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION, MARCH 31 IN HONOUR OF 46 ABORIGINAL TRAINEES. THE GRADUATES ARE TAKING PART IN A MULTI MILLION DOLLAR TRAINING PROGRAM. FROM L R ARE NORTHERN COLLEGE PRE EMPLOYMENT INSTRUCTOR, KATE WEBSTER AND TRAINEE LINDA BATISSE OF MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION.



FAMILY OF ALL AGES TOOK PART IN THE PRE EMPLOYMENT TRAINING GRADUATION IN MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION. HERE WE SEE GAIL BRUBACHER, PARTNERSHIP COORDINATOR FOR NORTHGATE MINERALS CORP HOLDING, HER GRANDDAUGHTER, ALEXIS ROY.

Graduates From The MAATS Training Program Preparing For Employment

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graduates are now taking upgrading and academic programs with Northern College to help them follow their chosen career path in mining. Upgrading programs for these graduates are being provided in Matachewan First Nation by a dedicated instructor and at the Northern College campus in Kirkland Lake.

MAATS is a four million dollar initiative that was announced on February 13, 2009 by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) as a three year partnership strategy. The strategy is supported primarily by HRSDC under the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP) program. MAATS is also supported in a partnership with Northgate Minerals Corp., Matachewan First Nation, Mattagami First Nation, Wahgoshig First Nation, Wabun Tribal Council and the Ontario government.

In a communiqué to the MAATS organization, Deborah Hyde, Acting Director, Partnerships, Aboriginal Affairs Directorate, HRSDC extended her congratulations to the students.

"These graduates



AN ABORIGINAL TRAINING PROGRAM CELEBRATED THE GRADUATION OF 46 PARTICIPANTS IN MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION, MARCH 31. BOARD MEMBERS OF THE MATACHEWAN ABORIGINAL ACCESS TO MINING, JOBS TRAINING, STRATEGY (MAATS) ARE FROM LR: DOROTHY LARKMAN-FLOOD, MATACHEWAN FN; JAMES NAVEAU, MATTAGAMI FN; PAM CORMIER (IN FRONT), MATACHEWAN FN; CHRIS ROCKINGHAM, VICE PRESIDENT, NORTHGATE MINERALS CORP; JASON BATISE, WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL; PAT BOSNICK, MINISTRY OF TRAINING, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES; BOB MACK, NORTHERN COLLEGE; DENISE NADON HOLDER, WAHGOSHIG FN AND GARY NAVEAU, MATTAGAMI FN.

represent individual potential and highlight the gains made by the many partners involved in this program. The real key to ASEP's success is the range of partners, such as the Government of Canada, Northern College and Northgate Minerals Corp," said Hyde.

MAATS is a strategy that was developed out of a partnership between the three Wabun First Nations of Matachewan, Mattagami and Wahgoshig, together with Northgate

Mineral Corp. The company is actively involved with Matachewan First Nation in the development of the Young Davidson Mine near the town of Matachewan and it has established a working agreement with Matachewan First Nation in this development.

"We are seeing more and more of a need to establish training opportunities such as this to help local people find a career in mining. I am a firm believer in continuing

education. Training and education is always valuable as it can lead to meaningful employment in any field. It is necessary in our modern economy as it allows individuals to find meaningful employment," said Chris Rockingham, Vice President, Business Development And Exploration, Northgate Minerals Corp.

The Wabun Chiefs of Mattagami First Nation and Wahgoshig First Nation provided their support for the graduates.

"There are all kinds of resource development opportunities happening on or near our First Nation lands and we are preparing our people for employment with training programs such as this," said Chief Walter Naveau, Mattagami First Nation.

The three Wabun communities are working together in multiple agreements with the mining industry concerning resource development projects currently

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COMMUNITY ELDERS WERE PART OF THE GRADUATION CEREMONIES TO CELEBRATE THE COMPLETION OF THE PRE EMPLOYMENT TRAINING PROGRAM. HERE WE SEE DOROTHY LARKMAN-FLOOD (LEFT), MATACHEWAN FN AND ELDER LAURA FLOOD, MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION.



FIRST NATION LEADERS WHO WERE PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MATACHEWAN ABORIGINAL ACCESS TO MINING, JOBS STRATEGY (MAATS) INCLUDED PAM CORMIER (LEFT), ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION AND ANNE BATISSE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MAATS.

MAATS Graduation Celebrates First Nation Training

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taking place on their traditional territories.

"This is another good day for our Wabun First Nation people. I want to thank everyone for working together and making this training program available for our community members," said Chief Dave Babin, Wahgoshig First Nation.

Bob Mack, Associate Director, Northern College was on hand to represent Northern College.

"On behalf of our board, we would like to thank you for involving Northern College. This graduation is as important as any post secondary program we have at

Northern College because with this training you not only have the ability to change your lives but your communities as well. We were honoured and privileged to be part of this project and we can only see good things to come in the future," said Mack.

Wabun Tribal Council has provided its support for partnership agreements to create training opportunities for its member First Nations and actively works towards establishing agreements with its member First Nations and the mining sector.

"I want to congratulate all of the graduates of the MAATS program. Wabun Tribal Council commends the efforts and

participation of HRSDC, Northgate Minerals and Matachewan First Nation in this important training initiative," said Shawn Batise, Executive Director, Wabun Tribal Council.

Ann Batisse, Executive Director of MAATS explained that some of these graduates who had sufficient academic background went directly to specific training for their chosen field. During the delivery of the program, Batisse added that a few participants wrapped up their training when they found employment in the mining industry or with First Nation economic development

opportunities.

She and her staff have developed a database and followup system to maintain contact with each of the program participants to ensure that they receive any help they need to find additional training or assistance in their mining careers.

"Our goal is to help Aboriginal participants find employment in the mining industry. We help them start from an entry level position but we also assist them in training and upgrading to find the right employment in higher level postings," said Ann Batisse, Executive Director, MAATS. Gail Brubacher,

Partnership Coordinator for Northgate Minerals Corp has been at the forefront in developing the MAATS program.

"It has been a really rewarding experience to be involved with such a positive program and I am happy to see so many of my people moving ahead in training and employment," said Brubacher.

MAATS is directed by a board of directors representing the partnering organizations. The board members are Jason Batise, Board Chair and Economic Development / Technical Services Advisor for Wabun Tribal Council; Chris Rockingham, Northgate Minerals; Denise Nadon-Holder, Wahgoshig First Nation; Pam Cormier, Matachewan First Nation and Gary Naveau, Mattagami First Nation. The strategy is managed by Ann Batisse, Executive Director; Laura Jean Flood, Community Liaison Officer and Gisele Batisse, Administrative Assistant. Gail Brubacher, Partnership Coordinator for Northgate Minerals Corp also works closely with MAATS staff in coordinating and organizing training and employment strategies.



ABORIGINAL GRADUATES FROM THE MAATS KIRKLAND LAKE INCLUDED FRONT ROW FROM L-R: LEAH BLUEBIRD, ROBERT JOBSON, KAYLA MEANIS, BOBBY LYNN JOBSON, JESSICA ROY, TAMMY SMITH, MEGAN JOYE AND LINDA WINCIKABY, PRE EMPLOYMENT INSTRUCTOR. BACK ROW FROM L-R ARE: RONALD BLUEBIRD, CRAIG HINDLE, ALLEN PETREMENT, ERIC WINCIKABY, ALBERT ROY, BRETT BISSON, DAVID BATISSE AND SHAWN DESJARDINS.



A GRADUATION CAKE WAS ENJOYED BY ALL AT THE PRE EMPLOYMENT TRAINING GRADUATION IN MATACHEWAN. HERE WE SEE ANN BOUCHER ON THE LEFT WITH JESSICA ROY AS THEY GET READY TO CUT THE CAKE.



PARTNERSHIP REPRESENTATIVES WERE PRESENT AT THE PRE EMPLOYMENT TRAINING GRADUATION EVENT IN MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION. PICTURED FROM L-R ARE: CHRIS ROCKINGHAM, VICE PRESIDENT, NORTHGATE MINERALS CORP; CHIEF RICHARD WINCIKABY, MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION AND JASON BATISE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / TECHNICAL SERVICES ADVISOR, WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL.

Peggy Claveau New Program Manager for NIHB / Accreditation



**PEGGY CLAVEAU,
PROGRAM MANAGER NIHB /
ACCREDITATION, WABUN
HEALTH SERVICES**

Peggy Claveau has taken on the new role of Program Manager for Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) and Accreditation, for Wabun Health Services. She is moving from her previous dual role as Assistant Health Director for Wabun Health Services and Employment And Training Coordinator, for Wabun Tribal Council. The NIHB duties are not new to Claveau as she was responsible for this program as Assistant Health Director. Much of her new position will be devoted towards organizing and coordinating the accreditation process which Wabun Health Services is taking part in with Accreditation Canada.

"The accreditation process is a major step for the Wabun Health organization. This upcoming year will be a busy period for all of us concerning our participation in this process," said Claveau.

Wabun Health Services started the process of accreditation with Accreditation Canada in 2008. The three year process will allow Wabun Health Services to evaluate all its programs, procedures and services in order to establish recognized standards in health care delivery and methods. Health Care workers in each of the Wabun communities and Wabun Health staff will be working together on an ongoing basis to complete

the necessary steps required by Accreditation Canada. Claveau will be responsible for coordinating these efforts with the assistance of H       Tass  , Accreditation Specialist.

The goal will be to provide quality services and delivery to clients in the Wabun area.

"Even after we achieve accreditation, it is an ongoing process where we have to maintain our status with Accreditation Canada. There will be a maintenance component which will help us to ensure quality health care services to our clients," said Claveau.

In 2006, she started a Public Administration and Governance correspondence program with Ryerson University. To date she has completed two levels of the three level program towards achieving a degree. She explained that her new role at Wabun Health fits in with her current university education.

"I am looking forward to my new responsibilities and to applying the knowledge and the education I have gained so far in my studies. I am also grateful that I am able to work with our communities in a new capacity and apply the experience I have gained in serving our First Nations for so many years," said Claveau.

She explained that her new responsibilities will give her a fresh perspective on Wabun First Nations and community members she has been working with for the past 14 years. In 1999, she took on the role of Assistant Health Director for Wabun Health Services, where she worked closely with the Health Director in administering and monitoring health programs and services in the Wabun

area. Previous to this she worked as Health Clerk for Wabun Health from 1995 to 1999.

"The accreditation process is a big step for our organization and I believe that we are ready to make that change. We have had the benefit of a low staff turnover in the past few years which has given us a core group of dedicated health care workers. This is an opportunity for us to evaluate our successes and to identify any areas we need to improve on. The process is also a chance for us to validate or confirm the positive work and successes

we have achieved so far," said Claveau.

She is looking forward to her new responsibilities and in working with Wabun Health staff in her new role.

"There is a lot of work ahead of us in terms of achieving accreditation. Our main focus will be to improve on our services and continue developing and moving forward as an organization. Wabun Tribal Council has a history of being a proactive organization and we want to continue that philosophy in our effort towards achieving accreditation,"

said Claveau.

In terms of her previous role as Employment and Training Coordinator, she was responsible for working with Wabun members in accessing training and employment opportunities. She was assisted by Audrey Allaire, Secretary / Receptionist in delivering the program. As of March 16, 2009, Nancy Cyr, was hired as Employment and Training coordinator. Cyr will also be continuing in an employment and training liaison position with the Kiewit - Alarie Partnership Upper Mattagami (KAP MU) Project.

Nancy Cyr Takes On Employment And Training Duties At Wabun



**NANCY CYR,
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING
COORDINATOR FOR WABUN
TRIBAL COUNCIL / PROGRAM
COORDINATOR, KAP UM**

Nancy Cyr started in the position of Employment and Training Coordinator for Wabun Tribal Council on March 16, 2009. She will also be continuing in her role as Program Coordinator for the Kiewit-Alarie Partnership, Upper Mattagami (KAP UM) Redevelopment Project, in Timmins. Since both these positions require Cyr to be in regular contact with Wabun communities, she will primarily be based at the Wabun Tribal Council office in Timmins.

As the new Employment and Training Coordinator, Cyr will

work with each of Wabun's First Nations to develop training and employment initiatives for community members. She will be responsible for the delivery of four main program areas under First Nation Initiatives, Regional Initiatives, Youth Initiatives and Individual Initiatives. Cyr is bringing plenty of experience to her new position considering that she is the current Program Coordinator for the KAP UM Redevelopment Project and served in 2008 as Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) Coordinator for Liberty Mines Incorporated.

While employed in these areas, Cyr worked with area First Nations near Timmins and Kirkland Lake. She was responsible for developing training and employment initiatives for First Nation members and in encouraging the development of business opportunities in First Nation communities.

"I was grateful to take on this new role in

employment and training as it ties in perfectly to the work I have been doing," said Cyr.

She added that the experience of working in employment and training services for First Nations has given her a better insight into the bigger picture of First Nation people who are looking for jobs and their specific needs.

"I have noticed in my work that off reserve members as well as our on location First Nation residents are also greatly benefiting from employment and training opportunities," said Cyr.

To contact Nancy Cyr, Employment and Training Coordinator for Wabun Tribal Council / Program Coordinator KAP UM Redevelopment Project, you can visit her at the main office at Wabun Tribal Council's office complex at 313 Railway Street in Timmins, call 705-268-9066 or 1-800-461-5623 Extension 226 and cell phone at 705-363-8533, or email her at nancycyr@wabun.on.ca

Healing And Prevention The Focus Of Suicide Workshop

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services in this field over a two year period.

"The youth workshop we sponsored in Timmins was designed to be part of an overall strategy to address the issue of youth suicide. It was developed to include the community, health care workers and parents to work together in helping to foster a healthy and supportive environment for our youth,"

said Jean Lemieux, Health Director, Wabun Health Services.

Wabun Youth that attended the Youth Workshop in Timmins included: Jaimee Roy, Matachewan FN; Wahgoshig FN members: Rachel Chokomolin, Winter Chokomolin, Robin Chokomolin, Lorlei Mathews, Tyler J Mathews, Billy Babin, David Paul and Aaron Lockwood ; Mattagami

FN members: Myles McKay, Dylan Boissoneau, Kourtney Baulne, Chad Naveau, Leiland Wheesk, Blake Baulne, Tyler Naveau and Grayson Luke and Brunswick House FN members: Jamie Lynn McWatch, Raven Agawa, Skylard Redbreast, Melissa Black, Rodney McWatch and Trent Agawa.

Chaperones that accompanied youth to the workshop included:

Brunswick House FN members: Cheryl St.Denis, Margaret Quakegesic and Elmer Tangie; Wahgoshig FN members: Marvin Singer, James Deluce, Bonnie Sackaney and Crystal Mallette; Mattagami FN members: Eileen Boissoneau, April Baulne, Cathy Naveau, Gerald Luke, Ivan McKay and Morris Naveau and Matabechewan FN member Sandra Roy.



MIKE ARCHER,
CRISIS COORDINATOR, WABUN
HEALTH SERVICES



MANY WABUN YOUTH TOOK PART IN THE SUICIDE PREVENTION WORKSHOP HELD IN TIMMINS ON MARCH 24 TO 26, 2009. PICTURED FROM L-R ARE: DYLAN BOISSONEAU, JAMIE LYNN MCWATCH AND CHERYL ST.DENIS.



CHAPERONES AND YOUTH FROM WABUN'S FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES WORKED TOGETHER TO TAKE PART IN THE YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION WORKSHOP. PICTURED FROM L-R ARE: MARGARET QUAKEGESIC, JAIMEE ROY AND ELMER TANGIE.



FIRST NATION LEADERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS WERE ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN THE YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION WORKSHOP. PICTURED FROM L-R ARE: IVAN MCKAY, GERALD LUKE AND EILEEN BOISSONEAU.

SUICIDE PREVENTION WORKSHOPS BACKGROUND

Archer explained that the first part of Wabun Health's ongoing strategy on youth suicide prevention was implemented in late 2008. This first phase included the development of a series of workshops to train and educate front line workers and community members on issues including suicide, bullying and peer support. In these workshops that took place in four Wabun First Nations, Naomi Archer, a 15

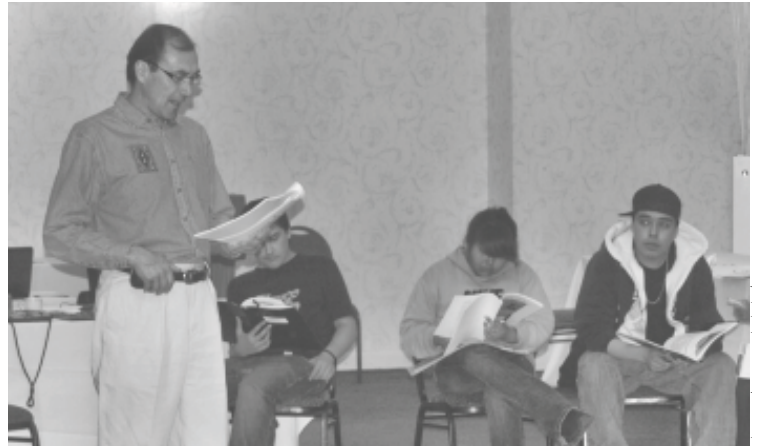
year old public speaker and presenter on youth social issues made presentations on bullying and shared her perspective as a young First Nation person. She recounted her experiences about being bullied in school, then her reaction by bullying others and finally her recovery by learning to share her emotions and how to seek help from those around her. Naomi Archer is the daughter of Mike Archer.

"Naomi's presentations were very personal

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SOCIAL ISSUES AFFECTING FIRST NATION YOUTH WERE HIGHLIGHTED AS PART OF THE YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION WORKSHOP IN TIMMINS. PICTURED FROM L-R ARE: JAMES DELUCE, CATHY NAVEAU, DAVID PAUL AND TRENT AGAWA.



WORKSHOP FACILITATOR CLAYTON SMALL (STANDING) LEADS THE YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION WORKSHOP AS PARTICIPANTS LOOK ON. PICTURED IN BACK FROM L-R ARE: SKYLARD REDBREAST, MELISSA BLACK AND RODNEY MCWATCH.

Wabun Youth Benefits From Youth Suicide Prevention Workshop

CONT FROM PG10

experiences that our family shared in as a parents, it also gave me an insight into how to deal with these issues for our communities.

Her experiences brought her to thinking of ideas of suicide and at the time I did not recognize the signs of hardship that were developing in her life. This was a trying period for our family but in the end I learned that in order for anyone to deal with these issues, we as a community of adults, parents and health care workers, need to know how to identify these situations and educate ourselves," said Archer.

Naomi Archer started her

presentation from an essay she needed to complete for a school assignment on the topic of a life changing event. She spoke to First Nation members in workshops held in the First Nations of Brunswick House, Matachewan, Mattagami and Wahgoshig.

"I was grateful to see Naomi wanting to share her life experiences and it allowed other youth to hear about these topics from someone in their age group. The youth who heard her story were greatly affected by what she said and the power of example provided them with hope that they were not alone in dealing with these same situations and feelings," said Archer.



ASSISTING YOUTH OF WABUN FIRST NATIONS WAS THE REASON FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION WORKSHOP. PICTURED FROM L-R ARE: JEAN LEMIEUX, HEALTH DIRECTOR, WABUN HEALTH SERVICES AND CLAYTON SMALL, WORKSHOP FACILITATOR.

Richard Wincikaby Elected To Chief Of Matachewan First Nation



Matachewan First Nation has a new Chief. Richard Wincikaby was elected to the position in April 2009. He follows outgoing Chief Elenore Hendrix, who held the position since March 2007. Wincikaby had

held the position in the past and is looking forward to the many opportunities and challenges facing Matachewan FN in the near future.

"There are a lot of great things happening for Matachewan First Nation and I am happy to be at the forefront of leading the community into a positive future. I thank everyone for being helpful and supportive and I look forward to carrying on with the work of Chief and Council to make our First Nation strong and productive," said Wincikaby.



ADULTS AND YOUTH WERE AN INTEGRAL MIX OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION WORKSHOP HELD IN TIMMINS FROM MARCH 24 TO 26, 2009. PICTURED FROM L-R: MARGARET QUAKESIC, ELMER TANGIE, JAIMEE ROY, JAMES DELUCE, BONNIE SACKANEY AND CRYSTAL MALLETT.



HEALING AND PREVENTION WAS A MAIN FOCUS DURING THE YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION WORKSHOP. PICTURED FROM L-R ARE: BONNIE SACKANEY, SKYLARD REDDREAST, MELISSA BLACK AND KOURTNEY BAULNE.



MANY TOPICS RELATING TO YOUTH SOCIAL ISSUES, FAMILY RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY WERE DISCUSSED AT THE YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION WORKSHOP. PICTURED FROM L-R ARE: CHERYL ST. DENIS, SANDRA ROY AND LORLEI MATTHEWS.

Wabun Health Services Undertakes Accreditation Process

Wabun Health Services is taking part in a process to achieve accreditation status through Accreditation Canada, an internationally recognized organization that assists health care providers in improving the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare delivery and services. The Accreditation process will be a comprehensive program that will assess existing services, educate staff, continue development of existing programs and establish recognized standards and quality of service for clients.

"We are excited about undertaking this process with Accreditation Canada. This allows us to see where we stand as a health service and identify any work that needs to be done," said Jean Lemieux, Wabun Health Director.

She explained that the accreditation process will

bring more accountability to the Wabun Health organization.

"This process will help us to meet internationally recognized standards at Wabun Health and ensure that quality services are provided to our membership," said Lemieux.

In March 2009, to organize Wabun Health Services' efforts, Peggy Claveau Assistant Health Director for Wabun Health took on the role of Program Manager NIHB / Accreditation which includes coordination of the accreditation process.

Wabun Health completed the self assessment phase of the process in February 2009. This phase involved working with Wabun Tribal Council Chiefs and leadership, to present to them the accreditation process and the required

tasks that need to be completed in the next 18 months. This period will include meeting and informing the Wabun leadership and communities on the accreditation process.

"The accreditation process will help to develop a quality level of standards," Jean Lemieux, Health Director

"Over the next 18 months, we will review policies and procedures within our organization and identify and address any needs that may be missing in all areas of our services, client care and programming," said Lemieux.

Once this period of informing the community and working with health care providers to implement recommendations is completed, surveyors from Accreditation Canada will visit the Wabun Health Services office to determine the level of overall standards in all aspects of the organization. They will also visit three Wabun communities to conduct onsite surveying with a small, medium and large First Nation. The three visits to communities will help Accreditation Canada establish the level of standards in small communities as well as First Nations with a large population. Wabun Health will work with Hélène Tassé, Accreditation Specialist in following the steps to achieving accreditation.

The accreditation process takes three years to complete. In short, the accreditation process begins with collecting required information, and then the organization seeking accreditation completes a self assessment and prepares for an on-site survey. Once the surveyors report and recommendations are received, the organization seeking accreditation then evaluates the suggestions and implements them before a second survey is conducted. Throughout this process Accreditation Canada guides client organizations through every step and works with them to implement improvements and recommendations.

The accreditation process will help to develop a quality level of standards



**JEAN LEMIEUX,
HEALTH DIRECTOR, WABUN
HEALTH SERVICES**

in the areas of sustainable governance, effective organization, service excellence and a positive client experience. The process will also help Wabun Health to develop service excellence standards in the areas of First Nations Inuit Addiction Services, First Nations Inuit Community Health Services, Acute Care, Maternal / Child, Tele-Health, Child Welfare, Home Care, Long Term Care, Mental Health, Rehabilitation, Hospice, Palliative and End-of-life Care.

Accreditation Canada is a national, non-profit, independent organization that helps establish recognized standards to health services through accreditation. They have assisted organizations across Canada and internationally examine and improve the quality of service provided for patients and clients. The organization has an Aboriginal component that provides a holistic framework applied to the accreditation standards through a nationally recognized process that is culturally relevant and includes the assistance of Aboriginal surveyors.

Wabun Health Renews Health Transfer Process

Wabun Health Services is wrapping up another five year Health Transfer process with Health Canada's First Nation and Inuit Health Branch and looking forward to another five years of providing health services to Wabun communities. Currently, Wabun Health staff have completed an evaluation process to sign off with the previous five years and now they are preparing for the next phase of the health transfer process.

Wabun Tribal Council was the first Native organization in Ontario to take part in the Health Transfer process with Health Canada's First Nation and Inuit Health Branch in December 1993. Since then, the tribal council has been working with Health Canada in a series of five year Health Transfer processes. This has allowed the tribal council to manage and direct health care services for its member

communities.

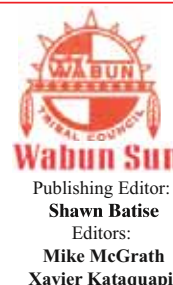
"We have been in the health transfer process for a long time now and it has been rewarding to see our communities having control over their own health care services to provide the right programs and delivery methods for our people," said Lemieux.

As part of finalizing the previous transfer agreement, Wabun Health contracted Diane Takenay in December 2008 to conduct community surveys as a way to gather First Nation input for submission to Health Canada, First Nation and Inuit Health Branch.

The renewal of a new five year health transfer agreement with Health Canada requires the creation of updated community health care plans. To complete the community health care plan, Wabun Health staff will meet with community health care team members

and conduct a review and evaluation of services. The review will identify any health care needs and requirements and this will allow Wabun Health to establish a community health plan. Once the community health care plan is submitted and accepted by Health Canada, First Nation and Inuit Health Branch, a new five year Health Transfer process will be established with Wabun Health Services.

"The health transfer process is good for our organization and our First Nations. It requires a lot of work and input from everyone at Wabun Health Services and process will allow us to take stock of where we are now and identify any programs or services that our members need. It also gives us the opportunity to work with our community health care teams to better serve our First Nations," said Lemieux.



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