

WABUN

Volume Fourteen Issue One

Sun



GOLDCORP

INSIDE:

- RDA Signing With Gold Corp
- IBA Negotiations With Probe Mines
- Wabun Youth Gathering 2014

REFLECTIONS



**Shawn
Batise**
Executive
Director

Our ancestors have lived on the land in a vast area of Northeastern Ontario for thousands of years. Things changed for our people in a big way when the Europeans came to Canada and signed treaties with our ancestral leaders over a hundred years ago. The installation of the reservation system forced our people into small parcels of land that made no sense for us as we had always followed a nomadic way of life. We had always lived on the land and we moved along the rivers, lakes and terrain as hunters and gatherers. Our survival depended on being able to follow the animals and birds.

Families back then more or less became known to hunt, fish and gather in areas where they had historical usage. People respected each others family traditional lands even with the development of the reservation system. It is a fact that our great grandfathers and great grandmothers still lived a nomadic lifestyle at the introduction of the reservation system. They had no choice. To feed their families and survive they still maintained their nomadic lifestyle to a great degree and the treaties allowed for this. There was simply no way our people could make a living or follow their traditional hunting and gathering pursuits on a reservation tract of land.

Through oral history passed down in our own families and some documentation we have a good general understanding of where our Wabun First Nation members call their traditional lands. However, with so much development on our member's lands over the past 100 years in many cases we have been squeezed out of areas we consider our traditional lands. Development mainly in forestry, mining and hydro led to the creation of

towns, cities, plants, mills and manufacturing in general on our traditional lands. For a good part of almost a couple of centuries we as First Nation people were very much ignored in terms of our use of traditional lands, we were not invited in to share in the vast amount of wealth that was taken off of these lands in resource development and any kind of employment was very hard to come by. Of course we all realize today that this was another time where a different mindset prevailed and racism was a fact of life. Through the perseverance, creativity and knowledge of our elders we survived. Despite the efforts of government to attack our nomadic way of life with the reservation system and to try to assimilate us through the residential school system we still managed to survive.

***If we really want to
benefit from, as well
as protect our
traditional lands,
then we have to get
out there on the
lakes, rivers and
terrain we know as
our own.***

For the past 20 years Wabun First Nations through Wabun Tribal Council has been working with government and resource development companies to ensure that development on our traditional lands produces benefits to our First Nation members affected. We can't turn back the clocks and make fair any benefits for what development has transpired on our lands but we have in fact managed over recent years to produce good agreements with government and resource developers that have resulted in financial benefits, business development, partnerships and meaningful employment for our members.

Even though today we are working at pursuing these agreements with government and resource developers

in a more enlightened and fair environment we still have to be better organized and secure in demonstrating our First Nations use and identification of our traditional lands in terms of hunting and gathering, ceremonial sites, cultural areas and burial sites.

Further north where resource development is new to remote First Nations there is more acceptance in terms of honouring traditional lands. Development in our Wabun First Nations areas has been going on for more than a century and government as well as resource developers somehow consider our claim to traditional lands as somehow less significant than those to the far north. We need to do a better job of identifying and then communicating our ancestral use of our traditional lands. Our Elders, grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, aunts and cousins all go back out on to their traditional lands to hunt, fish, hold ceremonies, hold gatherings, gather berries and medicine plants and visit burial sites. One of our problems is that we don't share that information on a regular basis with our administration and lands and resources departments and that makes it more difficult to be able to point to our traditional lands usage when dealing with governments and resource developers who challenge us.

I urge our members to keep track of your visits out onto your traditional lands and let us know what your usage has been. I am not asking you to give up your best fishing or hunting spots and I can assure you that we don't intend on prying into your use of your traditional lands. However, I am urging all our members to get in touch with our lands and resources department and help them to develop a more concise listing of traditional land use by our members. If we really want to benefit from, as well as protect our traditional lands, then we have to get out there on the lakes, rivers and terrain we know as our own. It is also important to let our lands and resource people know this is happening. As more and more of our Elders pass on it is up to us and our younger generations to become more active in our traditional land use.

HEALTH MATTERS

Life has not been easy for our Wabun First Nation members. I know first hand how difficult things were 20 or 30 years ago. The Elders in our Wabun communities have passed on many stories that have to do with their efforts to survive hard times. Realities like the reservation system and residential schools have taken a toll on our people. We as a people have had to deal with high rates of suicide, alcoholism, drug addiction, systematic unemployment, poor education opportunities and substandard health services.

Now that our members are moving ahead so quickly to further their education to develop careers and meaningful employment it is up to us to put in place programs that support success.

Over the past couple of decades our First Nations have been making great strides in many areas and things have taken a very positive turn for the better. Through the efforts of our Chiefs, councils, administration and staff we have moved ahead to negotiate good agreements with resource development companies and the government and that has provided many opportunities for our people to work. We have also made great strides in directing and managing our own health programs which are driven from our grass roots membership needs in all of our Wabun First Nations. Today we have much better health care and for the most part staffed with medical professionals from our Wabun First Nations.

Wabun Health has been working over the past decade to really focus on alcohol and drug abuse aware-

ness, prevention and education. We have been offering mens and womens wellness workshops that deal with many of the critical issues on our First Nations and we have also been focusing on our youth with regular workshops and the annual Wabun Youth Gathering. These events and workshops have been based on cultural and traditional teachings as well as current expertise in providing our people the necessary tools and skills they need to confront and deal with issues such as alcoholism, addictions, suicide prevention, violence, abuse and teenage pregnancy. I am happy to say these efforts are making a difference.

At this point our members, to a great degree, are ready to take advantage of the educational and employment opportunities available to them. I am not saying that we have defeated all the ills affecting our people in Wabun First Nations but our members are more healthy, stronger and more hopeful and that is a very big deal for all of us. I believe it is time now that we actively put some programs and training in place that do a better job of preparing and connecting our members to the educational and employment opportunities that are plentiful today.

I see the results of our First Nations developing with the services, facilities and opportunities that other non-Native communities have known for many decades. Today so many of our Wabun members are finding employment in mining, forestry, business, health care and education. We are feeling better about ourselves and most importantly we have hope for a bright future. We need to maintain this

**Jean
Lemieux**
Health
Director



momentum by providing more information and support to our people who are preparing to move on in education or for employment. We still need to focus on all the good work our leaders and staff do in terms of dealing with the critical issues that hold us back. However, now that so many of us are going further with education and obtaining employment we also need to make sure that we maintain support, continued healing and life skills development so that the trail forward is well identified and obstacles addressed.

Now that our members are moving ahead so quickly to further their education to develop careers and meaningful employment it is up to us to put in place programs that support success. We are entering a time where our capacity for identifying support through programming and our ability to network is becoming very important. As we as individuals are becoming healthier and strong we need to remember that we are in fact part of the greater Wabun Tribal Council family and we need to watch out for each other. None of us should have to fall along the way as there are many people, programs and initiatives to provide a helping hand.

Front Page

PICTURED AT THE SIGNING OF A RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT ARE (FRONT ROW L-R): CHIEF WALTER NAVEAU, MATTAGAMI FN; CHIEF ELENORE HENDRIX, MATACHEWAN FN; CHIEF DAVE BABIN, WAHGOSHIG FN AND CHIEF MURRAY RAY, FLYING POST FN. BACK ROW L-R ARE: CHRIS WOODALL SR. VICE PRESIDENT OF CANADA & US OPERATIONS, GOLD CORP; MARC LAUZIER, MINE GENERAL MANAGE, PORCUPINE GOLD MINES AND BRENDAN ZUIDEMA, MANAGER OF OPERATIONS, PORCUPINE GOLD MINES. STORY APPEARS ON PAGE 4.

photo by Claude J Gagnon, Professional Photography & Imaging

Wabun FNs Sign RDA With Goldcorp

A groundbreaking agreement built around trust and respect between Goldcorp Porcupine Gold Mine, the First Nations of Mattagami, Matachewan, Flying Post and Wahgoshig was signed in Timmins, November 24.

The signing of the Resource Development Agreement puts in place the opportunity for employment, training, business partnerships and financial participation for the four First Nations involved.

"I want to thank the First Nation Chiefs and Goldcorp's entire negotiating team for working so hard to make this agreement a reality. It has taken many years to develop and it is a shining example of what can be achieved when a major corporation and First Nations meet in the spirit of respect and inclusion," explained Wabun Tribal Council, Executive Director, Shawn Batise.

The Chiefs of Wabun, Batise and his staff have been involved in negotiating with Goldcorp for years leading up to the signing of this agreement. Flying Post, Mattagami and Matachewan First Nations are part of the Wabun Tribal Council and all based in northeastern Ontario. Wahgoshig First Nation is situated near Matheson, Ontario.



**CHIEF WALTER NAVEAU,
MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION**

"This agreement has been a long wait for me as Chief and for our community. We are thankful to Gold Corp and the other First Nations involved for creating a meaningful negotiation process based on respect, open dialogue and the goal of creating mutual benefits. I am also grateful to Shawn Batise and Wabun Tribal Council for helping to establish a ground breaking agreement that others can look up to," said Chief Walter Naveau, Chief of Mattagami First Nation.

Marc Lauzier, Mine General Manager, PGM pointed out that Goldcorp has been working at building trust and engaging with the First Nations through the past few years. The company has involved First Nation Elders in applying their knowledge of traditions and culture in regards to the land during mine closures and environment revitalization. Goldcorp also partnered with Dumas Contracting and Wabun Tribal Council to train First Nation people for employment opportunities in mining. As a result Goldcorp has employed many First Nation people.

"We are in the infancy of working together and already we have moved ahead with some interesting initiatives. In signing this Resource Development Agreement I want to point out that it is really about working together and doing the right thing. I want to see stronger partnerships, transparency and open communications, business opportunities, capacity building and continued engagement come out of this," explained Lauzier.

Elders who participated in the event included: Marie Boucher, Matachewan FN, opening prayer; Paul Chookoomolin, Wahgoshig FN, prayer song; Leonard Naveau, Mattagami FN, opening remarks and the Whitestone Cree Singers (youth drum) who performed an honour song and travel song.



**CHIEF MURRAY RAY,
FLYING POST FIRST NATION**

Chief Murray Ray, Flying Post First Nation is confident that the signing of this agreement will make a difference for his community.

"This is an important milestone for our First Nation as it validates what our ancestors said in the treaty signing. Our connection to the land is being recog-

nized. This signing also gives our people hope for the future, as this partnership gives us an opportunity to become more self sufficient so that our families and children can have a better future," commented Chief Ray.

Chief Elenore Hendrix, Matachewan First Nation has much first hand experience in dealing with resource development companies and in particular those involved in mining. She has worked closely with Wabun's Executive Director and his staff in producing many beneficial agreements.



**CHIEF ELENORE HENDRIX,
MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION**

"I am pleased that we have managed to enter into an agreement with Goldcorp that has benefits to Matachewan First Nation and will provide hope and opportunity for the future. I thank all the other Chiefs involved and our Wabun Tribal Council administration for all the work done to make this agreement a reality," said Elenore Hendrix, Chief of Matachewan First Nation.

Goldcorp has several mines in the Timmins area of which one includes the legendary Hollinger Mine which has been in place for more than 100 years. The company is involved in exploration in the area and they are confident about future developments.

"I see the signing of this agreement as a means to pave the way to get good feedback and input so that we can roll into our project development in terms of current operations, expansions for changes or any new ones that come. We are a company that believes in strong partnerships and in giving back to the community," explained Lauzier.

*all event photos courtesy of
Claude J Gagnon*

IBA Negotiations Started Between Probe Mines Ltd and Wabun FNs

The Wabun First Nations of Brunswick House and Chapleau Ojibwe have entered into Impact and Benefits Agreement (IBA) negotiations with Probe Mines Limited concerning the ongoing development of the company's Borden Lake project in the Chapleau area.

The negotiation process also includes Chapleau Cree First Nation. Negotiations for the potential agreement was initiated due to increased activity and added development to the company's gold mineral discovery on Borden Lake, which borders Brunswick House First Nation. In fact, the mining project is located five kilometers from the community.

"It is very significant for our community to see that Probe Mines is willing to work with our First Nation. We look forward to working together with the company and in creating mutually beneficial outcomes for everyone," said Chief Kevin Tangie, Brunswick House First Nation.



Chief Kevin Tangie,
Brunswick
House First
Nation

Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation is located right next to the town of Chapleau. Chief Anita Stephens is hopeful for the development of the project.

"Probe Mines is a fairly new company and it is reassuring to know that they are open to sit with us to negotiate and consult with our First Nation concerning development. I commend the efforts of everyone on both sides of the negotiations for making this happen," said Chief Stephens.

The company has developed a good relationship with First Nations in the Chapleau area since it started active exploration in 2011.

Probe mines signed a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) agreement with three area First Na-

tions in 2011. This included the two Wabun Tribal Council First Nations of Chapleau Ojibwe and Brunswick House and also the Chapleau Cree First Nation which is part of the Mushkegowuk Tribal Council.

"We are building a strong relationship with everyone involved and there is plenty of participation on all sides. We are definitely on the right path and we look forward to building on the relationship we have established from previous agreements. I am thankful to the First Nation Chiefs involved in working together to advance this project," said David Palmer, President of Probe Mines Limited.



David Palmer,
Probe Mines
Limited

The IBA negotiation process will take between 12 to 18 months to establish. The company and the three First Nations will negotiate on several issues including environmental and land concerns as well as employment and business opportunities to create an agreement on how these issues are to be addressed.

Wabun Tribal Council has provided lands and resource expertise and support for its member First Nations throughout the relationship period with the company.

Chief Tangie explained that Wabun's involvement has been important as his community does not have the resources to deal with major negotiations such as this.

"We are thankful to Wabun and its staff for their support in making these negotiations possible. It makes it easier for us to represent

and advocate for our people when we know that we have the technical and political support of our Tribal Council," said Chief Tangie.

Chapleau Ojibwe FN, which is a small community, also appreciates the expertise and knowledge that Wabun Tribal Council brings to negotiations.

"Our tribal council experts have dealt with many mining agreements and arrangements and it has proven to be very helpful for us to access this experience and expertise. It is also important for us to work as a group with other First Nations so that we are all better able to represent our people and create meaningful and beneficial results for everyone," said Chief Stephens.



Chief Anita Stephens,
Chapleau
Ojibwe First
Nation

Shawn Batise, Executive Director of Wabun Tribal Council has worked closely with both First Nation leaders. Over the past decade, he and his staff have accumulated plenty of experience, training and knowledge in navigating mining and lands issues between its member First Nations, government entities and mining and exploration companies.

"This is a very promising negotiation process for our member First Nations in Chapleau. We are optimistic about the eventual development of this mining venture and the benefits it will create for everyone involved," said Batise.

Probe Mines Limited is an exploration and development company centred on its Borden Gold Project near the town of Chapleau.

2014 Wabun Youth Gathering



Jean Lemieux and Mike Archer of Wabun Tribal Council Health Services took the healing dream of the late Elder Thomas Saunders and made it a reality with the creation of the annual Wabun Youth Gathering.

"It was always my goal to create a First Nation youth gathering and when I joined Wabun I was happy to find that this idea was something that gelled well with the wishes of prominent Brunswick House Elder, Thomas Saunders and Wabun's Health Director Jean Lemieux," explained Archer who heads up the gathering and works as the Wabun Health Community Crisis Coordinator.

Jason Saunders a traditional drummer and singer from Brunswick House First Nation was on hand to assist facilitators Clayton Small and Craig Fox during the two week youth gathering.

"It makes me feel so proud to be part of the Wabun Youth gathering and to serve in the memory of my

great uncle Thomas Saunders," commented Jason Saunders

This year the annual gathering celebrated its eighth year in the wilderness setting at the Eco Centre Lodge in Elk Lake.

The event was divided into two parts. The first week from July 14 to 18 was held for junior youth aged from eight to 12 and the second week from July 21 to 25 was for senior youth aged 13 to 18. The first week of events featured facilitators Craig Fox of Wikwemikong First Nation, a traditional teacher and dancer who instructed the male and female youth on drumming and singing.

The senior week featured a series of workshops by Small, a northern Cheyenne Native American based in Albuquerque New Mexico who is an aboriginal leadership specialist that promotes primary suicide intervention techniques. Small also holds a Masters in Education and has many years experience as a secondary school



Junior Group July 15 - 19, 2014

Healing First Nation Youth

principal.

Wabun youth experienced role playing in skits and exercises conducted by Small that assisted them in terms of dealing with themes centred around suicide prevention, grief, forgiveness and critical issues facing First Nation teens.

"I have been coming to this gathering for years now and I am really thankful that people like Mike Archer and Clayton Small can provide us with teaching and hands on information that helps us deal with things like suicide, teen pregnancy and bullying," commented 16 year old Jason Therriault of Mattagami First Nation.

Julie McKay, Assistant Wabun Health Director, presented the junior youth with gifts and certificates in appreciation of their participation.

"I am so proud of our Wabun Youth I met during my visit to our gathering and I am convinced that

we are doing a great job in helping our young people develop through traditional teachings. Many thanks to Jean Lemieux, Mike Archer and our Wabun Chiefs for making our circle strong," said McKay.

The featured drum and singing group came from a Wabun community. The Big Bear Claw Singers of Brunswick House First Nation, led by Jason Saunders performed traditional songs with the guidance and teachings of Fox.

Morris Naveau, an Elder and a residential school survivor from Mattagami First Nation was on hand to lead the groups in prayer and assist with teachings.

"It makes me feel so good to see all these young Wabun people going on this healing journey through our annual gathering. What they are learning here will help guide them in the future and prepare them for leadership roles," said Naveau.



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



Senior Group July 22 - 26, 2014

TransCanada Energy East Pipeline Plan Drives Traditional Land Use Study

Wabun Tribal Council is moving ahead with plans for a Traditional Land Use Study in regards to developing detailed information on any impact that will result with the TransCanada Energy East Pipeline Project that is being proposed from Alberta to New Brunswick.

The proposed pipeline has caused some controversy and opposition as it's owner TransCanada Pipeline has decided to ship crude oil or bitumen from western tar sands via a current line that transports gas. The company also plans to construct additional new pipeline so that the oil is shipped west to east.

TransCanada, based in Calgary, filed a 30,000 page application with the National Energy Board on October 30 for its Energy East Pipeline project. Although the National Energy Board has the final say in approving the project, a process is underway to provide for input and representation from Canadians. Currently many First Nations, environmental groups and communities are opposed to the project.

Many First Nations, environmental groups and communities are questioning the project and demanding serious consultation.

The 4,600-kilometre pipeline will carry 1.1-million barrels of crude oil per day from Alberta and Saskatchewan to refineries in Eastern Canada. The TransCanada \$12 billion dollar project is expected to go through a long hearing process and environmental review. The onus is on TransCanada to prove to First Nations, environmental groups and the public at large that the pipeline won't cause negative environmental impact or lead to higher utility costs in Eastern Canada. There is a concern that converting the use of the existing gas pipeline to carry crude oil, which is much thicker, could result in devastating leaks. Consumers are also fearful that taking the current gas pipeline out of service for gas fuel could lead to higher utility costs for Eastern Canadians.

"We hope to move ahead with a Traditional Land Use Study before the end of 2014 as it was originally set back from May. We need the input of our Wabun First Nation members so that we can clearly understand and demonstrate

any impact on our lands," explained Shawn Batise, Executive Director, Wabun Tribal Council.

David Flood, Councillor for Matachewan First Nation, who holds the Lands and Resources Portfolio on Council, has been following the development of the Energy East project from the start. The project will be directly affecting the traditional territories of Matachewan First Nation. Flood believes that Wabun First Nations must have the opportunity to detail the potential impact on local First Nations lands that are involved with the multi-billion dollar pipeline development. However, he is concerned about the process for approval in terms of timing and commitment.



David Flood,
FN Councillor
Matachewan
First Nation

"There is a deep concern about the will of the proponent's (TransCanada's) interest and how the Ontario and Federal governments will contemplate the best interests nationally. The worst thing that could happen is that people put up their hands and say they are going ahead anyway and we just ran out of time to do full consultation and that would be my personal political concern for my First Nation of Matachewan", said Flood.

He explained that TransCanada had believed they would have achieved approval for the Energy East Pipeline project rather quickly. However, many First Nations, environmental groups and communities are questioning the project and demanding serious consultation.

"We hope they do not make an excuse by saying that this project is being developed because it is vital and important to open up economic opportunity for Canada to move oil east to the seaboard. There is concern that they will use this declaration to run roughshod over the process. We don't think that would be a good idea for the proponent to do this and we hope they won't. We have put the Na-

tional energy board on notice so we are optimistic they won't end up allowing this to happen," explained Flood.

Both Batise and Flood pointed out that Wabun First Nations have not determined whether or not to support the project and that this decision could only be based on the detailed information that will be gathered through the Traditional Land Use Study.

"The First Nation has to be able to have its own voice in determining whether or not it is in support of the project and that is a critical objective of our consultation and engagement process," noted Flood.

Batise explained that Wabun Tribal Council negotiated with TransCanada for many months to secure an agreement to fund the Traditional Land Use Study.

"Rather than use a consultant provided by the company we have hired our own consultant and as well we have hired a legal representative for the hearings. I don't see this project moving ahead unless some meaningful discussion happens in terms of some sort of revenue sharing. We are very concerned about the potential for oil leaks in on our traditional lands and that would be a catastrophe so we need some kind of commitment from TransCanada that our interests in terms financial opportunities and concerns for the environment are met," explained Batise.

Batise pointed out that the Traditional Land Use Study is an absolute necessity in terms of deciding on what issues and input Wabun will present to the National Energy Board.

"This is why we need detailed information from our members about our traditional land use. We need to address the important issue of potential leakages and environmental contamination on our traditional lands. It is absolutely vital for our members to participate in this study as the information they provide can help us to protect our First Nation lands," said Batise.

It is hoped that the Traditional Land Use Study will start in the near future with a general call out to Wabun First Nation members for input on their traditional lands in areas related to the pipeline. Anyone with any information can contact their Lands and Resources departments through their respective First Nation administration office.

Chief Kevin Tangie Featured

Chief Kevin Tangie, Brunswick House First Nation, is the featured Chief of the Issue for this edition of Wabun Sun. Chief Tangie was elected to his first term as Chief of his community in August 2013.

For over a decade, he has been involved in Aboriginal organizations in his community and in the Wabun territory in the areas of employment, training, resource development and social programming.

One of his main goals as Chief of Brunswick House FN is to implement more community involvement in areas such as lands and resources as well as in education and youth issues.



Chief Kevin Tangie,
Brunswick
House First
Nation

"We are becoming more involved in various areas of resource development which only means that more opportunities are being generated for future projects. We need people to fill new positions so our focus has to be on education and supporting the development of our youth. All of this activity and the potential to help our youth will go a long way to creating a healthier community," said Chief Tangie.

Prior to his election as Chief, he served his community as First Nation Councillor for two terms. Due to the lack of trained personnel in the community, he has also held and continues to hold the dual role of Economic Development Officer (EDO) and the head of the Lands and Resources office for Brunswick House FN.

"It has been difficult to maintain the workload that our community experiences from all the projects we are involved in. However, we are also working hard at training our young people in the community through mentorship and job shadowing programs so that they can some day fill in these additional

roles," said Chief Tangie.

He is involved in regional programs concerning lands and resources issues. He is a member of the Lands and Economic Development Advisory Committee with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC).

In the long term, he envisions a future where his community will be better able to sustain itself.

"The more we get involved in resource development projects on our territories, the more we will be capable of becoming self sufficient and independent. Creating employment and business opportunities as well as sources of revenue for our community will go towards creating and maintaining housing programs and social and health care services for our people," said Chief Tangie.

He explained that his First Nation is also open to partnering on development projects with other First Nations in the Chapleau area as well as the town of Chapleau itself.

"There are many projects happening now and more planned for the future and it only makes sense to try to establish partnerships with other entities. It is better when we can all work together for the common good of all our communities," said Chief Tangie.

He added that he is grateful to the current group of staff at the Brunswick House FN administration office.

"We have a great team of people here who are working hard for our community. We are moving forward together and we are doing our best to encourage a future group of young people to help our First Nation in the years to come," said Chief Tangie.

He has four children including a son he raised by himself as a single parent. Through his experiences as a single parent, he has been a

strong advocate for First Nation child issues. Chief Tangie also holds the role of First Nation child advocate for his community and works with Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services to assist in child welfare and child care cases. Chief Tangie is also part of the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) Chiefs Committee on Education which deals with child welfare and education issues.

***"We draw on the
guidance of our Elders
and we pass on this
knowledge to our youth.
It is important for us
recognize our Elders
and to build a future for
our youth,"
Chief Kevin Tangie***

He also wants to encourage cultural and traditional knowledge in the community as well as supporting Aboriginal language programs for youth.

"We have lost so much over the past few decades so it is even more important for us to preserve our culture, traditions and especially our language now. These goals bring two worlds together. We draw on the guidance of our Elders and we pass on this knowledge to our youth. It is important for us recognize our Elders and to build a future for our youth," said Chief Tangie.

When he is not at the office, Chief Tangie enjoys spending time at his cabin on Whitney Lake near the community. He enjoys tries to take time from his busy schedule to spend time with his family to go fishing, camping and to be on the land.

Grant Joins Wabun Health As New CHN

Amy Grant is the new Community Health Nurse (CHN) for the Wabun First Nations of Brunswick House and Chapleau Ojibwe.



AMY GRANT, CHN, IS PICTURED HERE WITH HER HUSBAND GUILLAUME TREMBLAY AND THEIR TWO CHILDREN JACOB AND ANNIE .

As CHN, Grant will be assisting First Nation members from both communities with their health concerns on a regular basis. She will also be working closely with Community Health Representatives from both communities and with Health staff from the Wabun Health Services office in Timmins.

"This position is a change from my previous experience in medical ser-

vices. This is an open role for me as I have the opportunity to work directly with two communities. It is not a routine position and there is a bit more freedom as compared to employment in a big hospital. I look forward to working with everyone," said Grant.

In October, she had an introductory opening to the community and in November, she started her duties for Wabun Health in the Chapleau area.

Her duties include providing open hours at the community medical center to allow individuals to visit her about any medical concerns. She is able to treat incoming patients as needed and if further treatment is needed, she can refer individuals to a doctor. In addition, she is able to provide home visits to those who are not able to visit her. Her CHN duties also include providing health education awareness in the community by hosting presentations on healthy eating and teaching prenatal classes.

Originally from Uxbridge, north of Toronto, Grant who is 34 years of age, is a Registered Nurse who completed four years of study at Ryerson University in 2009. She gained work experience through positions in palliative and general care in rehabilitation center and a penitentiary in the Toronto area.

For the past few years, she has been a stay at home mother for her two children while her husband continued work as a Nurse Practitioner in Chapleau.

Her husband Guillaume Tremblay and their two children five year old Jacob and three year old Annie made the move north to Chapleau in May 2014.

"We were really excited to be making the move north. We love our new home in Chapleau and I look forward to meeting everyone in both Brunswick House and Chapleau Ojibwe," said Grant.

She and her husband are both active in the community. She works with the local Association for Community Living, is a member of the Parents Council for her son's school and sits on the board for a local Child Care Centre. In addition, her husband ran for election to local town council and was elected as Councillor during the recent 2014 Municipal Elections.

She is excited to be working with both communities in her new role.

"Personally, I am looking forward to working as a nurse again. I understand that change can be difficult, so my goal is to make the transition as easy as possible for everyone and to do the best that I can," said Grant.

She is also grateful for the support she receives from her family.

"My husband and I have worked as team in all our efforts for the past six years we have been married and I grateful for his support. I am also thankful to my parents for their help and encouragement, especially for our move to the north," said Grant.

Health Transfer Renewal

Wabun Health Services is currently in the finishing stages of the five year Health Transfer process with Health Canada's First Nation and Inuit Health Branch.

"Every five years we have to go through this process with the first part being an evaluation which allows us to review the past five years. Then we move on to recommendations on what we learned and what we feel should be updated or changed. Then a work plan is developed for the next five year agreement," explained Jean Lemieux, Wabun Health Services Director.

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. Many five year agreements have been signed with the government since then.

"We are so proud of all the great work our Wabun First Nation health services teams have been doing over the years. Wabun made history in the province in 1993 when we made the transfer to providing health care for our own people by our people in their communities," commented Lemieux.

Every five years a renewed health transfer agreement with Health Canada requires the creation of updated community health care plans. To complete the community health care plans, Wabun Health staff will meet with

community health care team members and conducts a review and evaluation of services. This identifies any health care needs and allows Wabun Health to establish a community health plan.

"This process works well for us as it gives us the opportunity to review and update the current situation in our First Nations in terms of so many things including population, births, infrastructure, development, our emergency measures and pandemic plan. The process ensures that we are providing the best possible health care to our members with current and up to date information and with their input," explained Lemieux.

Once the plan is accepted and the

Kayla Gregoire Joins Wabun

Kayla Gregoire, Mineral Development Advisor is the featured staff person for this issue of Wabun Sun. Her position is important in establishing first contact between Wabun First Nations and mining companies operating in the Wabun territory. Her primary role is to respond to notices from the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM) regarding mining companies that want to operate in the Wabun territory. Gregoire started her position in June 2014.



**Kayla
Gregoire,
Mineral
Development
Advisor**

As a member of Mattagami First Nation, she feels a direct connection to her work.

"I feel a great amount of pride to be involved in this position. I get a lot of satisfaction from the idea that the work that I am taking part in will help to preserve and protect our traditional lands for future generations," said Gregoire.

She works closely with Wabun management as well as Lands and Resources staff in each of the Wabun First Nations. Her primary role is to act as resource personnel

to inform communities on all mining activities and their potential impacts, assist in sharing information to the communities and to communicate with the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines as well as mining proponents. Gregoire's responsibilities also include working with projects regarding mining closure planning to help Wabun First Nations understand the nature of these types of projects and the impacts they will create. She also works with and supports the work carried on by existing Lands and Resources staff in each of the First Nations.

Mineral resource development in the Wabun territory has historically been very active but in recent years through the work of political advocacy that has been done by First Nation entities such as Wabun Tribal Council, First Nations have become more involved in these projects. In recent years, the amount of work and communications that Wabun First Nations are taking part has increased greatly.

"Wabun First Nations now receive a high volume of contact from companies that are thinking about or want to start new development in the mineral resource industry nearby. It is even more important now to help our First Nations take on this increased demand to work with mining and exploration companies," said Gregoire.

She added that is also important

for First Nations to take responsibility for managing and monitoring activities that take place on their territories.

"It is critical that our First Nations hold the government and resource developers to their duty to consult with First Nations concerning resource development projects. We also have to ensure that our First Nations know what is happening on our lands so that we can be capable of protecting the land and our Aboriginal rights," said Gregoire.

***"It is very satisfying
for me as the work
that I am involved in
with so many others
will help to create a
positive future for all
of our First Nations,"
- Gregoire***

Before taking on her new role, Gregoire was the Healthy Living Worker for the Timmins Native Friendship Centre. She also worked for TD Waterhouse for six years while studying at the University of Wilfred Laurier in Waterloo, Ontario. She completed a four year Criminology program in 2011. During her time at TD Waterhouse, she also had the opportunity to work with the company in Calgary where she lived for two and half years.

She wants to continue adding to her knowledge and experience in her role as Mineral Development Advisor by learning more about the mineral resource mining process as well as the role of government and Aboriginal participation in this industry.

"I enjoy working with everyone here at Wabun and the lands and resource staff in each of the communities. In a short amount of time we have built a close relationship as a working group to help our First Nations in these important issues. It is very satisfying for me as the work that I am involved in with so many others will help to create a positive future for all of our First Nations," said Gregoire.

Being Prepared

transfer renewed that plan becomes the working document for each individual Wabun First Nation for the next five years. The plan is a living document and allows for changes in terms of needs and updates in individual First Nations.

"Life is all about change and we need to be able to react and make changes to our plan as the needs arise. Our Wabun Health team has been very proactive and I can point to the forest fire emergency evacuation for Mattagami First Nation as an example of how we had to deal with the province to make sure they accepted and understood that our Wabun team had to be directly involved and on hand to care for our First Nation members as

we were familiar with their health issues, medications required and special needs," said Lemieux.

The evaluation, reviews and recommendations that have to take place between the Wabun Health team, First Nation leadership and membership is a process that Lemieux finds very helpful.

"This kind of grass roots, close contact individual community planning process makes us all more effective and efficient in servicing our people. We are all in tune and working on the same page when it comes to understanding our individual Wabun First Nations health care realities and needs. That makes us all feel confident," noted Lemieux.

Annual Mens And Womens Conference

Wabun Health Services hosted a Mens and Womens Conference in Timmins on October 21, 22 and 23. Seventeen participants took part from the First Nations of Matachewan, Mattagami, Brunswick House and Beaverhouse.

This annual conference is part of an overall strategy by Wabun Health to provide holistic training, education and awareness in Wabun First Nations. This event was held for adults 20 years of age and older. Wabun Health also hosts events during the year for youth and for Elders to provide awareness and support for people of all ages.

"We have seen progress and it is apparent to us with the efforts that individuals have made in their communities to create and maintain healthier lives,"
Mike Archer

"This is just one part of an overall program we maintain at Wabun Health. We aim to provide ongoing support for each one of our members at different stages of their lives. This support ensures that we are helping to create and foster a healthy community for each one of First Nations," said Mike Archer, Regional Crisis Coordinator.

This year's event was facilitated by Dennis Fitzpatrick and Sherri-Lyn Hill Pierce of Native Wind Consulting, an Aboriginal addictions awareness and wellness company from Stoney Creek, Ontario. Fitzpatrick, of the Métis Nation, is a graduate of an Addictions Worker Diploma Program and is a Certified First Nations

Addictions Counselor (FNWACCB). Hill Pierce is from the Mohawk Nation on Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. She is an Aboriginal addictions counselor who has been certified with several organizations. Both of them combined provide over 25 years of knowledge and experience in the addictions and self-help fields. Their company has provided various programs for Aboriginal communities and organizations for many years.

Participants in this year's conference were led in workshops and activities that focused on guidance and support on healthy families. The workshops focused on identifying family dynamics, generational grief such as residential school issues and alcohol and drug abuse. They also dealt with relationship issues in a family and learning how to communicate.

"We wanted our participants to learn about their role in the family but also the role of others around them. The whole process is about how to become a better role model. One of the most important lessons we try to teach is how to take care of yourself so that we can have healthy strong individuals who are better able to help their family and their community," said Archer.

The Mens and Womens Conference was made possible by Wabun Health. This will be the ninth year that this type of conference has been held.

"We are grateful to our leadership, our First Nation Chiefs for providing their support and encouragement for so many years," said Archer.

He explained that he has seen many positive changes over the years.

"We keep seeing individuals coming back year after year for every

conference we hold, we also see new people coming on board. We have seen progress and it is apparent to us with the efforts that individuals have made in their communities to create and maintain healthier lives. This is a far reaching program, as the work participants do and the skills they learn helps their family and in the bigger picture their community," said Archer.

Jean Lemieux, Wabun Health Services Director is happy that this successful program has been able to develop over the years and continues to assist Wabun First Nation members with vital learning environments that ultimately result in a better quality of life.

"I am very happy to see these wellness workshops continue to serve our members and I am grateful to all those who participate and of course to Mike Archer for his dedication to these initiatives," commented Lemieux.



Wabun Sun

Publishing Editor: Shawn Batise
Editors: Xavier Kataquapit /
Mike McGrath /

Wabun Tribal Council

313 Railway Street
Timmins, Ontario P4N 2P4
Ph. 705-268-9066
Fx. 705-268-8554
www.wabun.on.ca
www.wabunsun.com