

WABUN

Volume Fifteen Issue One

Sun



25th Anniversary

REFLECTIONS



**Shawn
Batise**
Executive
Director

We are celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Wabun Tribal Council this year. The founding Chiefs including Lawrence Naveau, Mattagami First Nation; Clifford Diamond, Wahgoshig FN, Baptist Memegoes, Chapleau Ojibwe; Joseph Saunders, Brunswick House FN and Barney Batise, Matachewan FN moved ahead with their vision of creating Wabun Tribal Council and started operations in April 1990. Beaverhouse FN and Flying Post FN joined the Council later. We all owe much gratitude to the founding Chiefs and Councils for creating a way and means of dealing with governments, bureaucracies and finances at a point where First Nations had little voice and less representation in terms of lobbying and proactive strategic planning. Thanks also must be given to Margaret Naveau who served as the Executive Director in the early days of Wabun.

This has been a very personal and rewarding experience for me in terms of heading up the tribal council as Executive Director for more than two decades. This has always been more than a job for me. I know the founding Chiefs of Wabun have (or had) great satisfaction in watching the Tribal Council develop with all kinds of improvements in our First Nations. The three that have passed on took great pride in what they helped to create as do the two founding members still with us today – Barney Batise and Lawrence Naveau. I recall when I first started in my position that our Wabun First Nations were struggling and for the most part had little or no communications or telephone service in place, clean water was a real concern, none of our First Nations had proper administration facilities or resources, there were few community health services, decent housing was lacking and unemployment and addiction issues were demoralizing.

Thanks to the vision of and dedication of our Wabun Chiefs throughout the 25 years we have managed to work with our First Nation members to produce some of the best run, most modern, safe and pros-

perous First Nations in the country. To be sure, this could not have been accomplished without the hard work and dedication of staff, leadership, and community members at the First Nation level. My family and friends are part of the fabric that makes up the Wabun Tribal Council. Today I feel greatly rewarded when I visit our First Nations and I see first-hand how life has improved for our members. I see our Elders respected and cared for. I see mothers and fathers for the most part leading better lives with jobs and opportunities many of their parents did not have. I see the youth getting support, education and employment opportunities. In our Wabun First Nations we now have modern state of the art communications. We have a wide range of health services. We have water treatment plants and clean water to drink. We have community recreation facilities and services. Our First Nation administration office complexes are modern and fully equipped.

***Wabun Tribal Council
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In thinking about all of this I can't help but get a little emotional because I have been there with our Chiefs, councils, staff people and members all along the way. I have seen Elders and leaders pass, loved ones go and babies being born. I remember how difficult things were a couple of decades ago. I watched our Wabun Chiefs fight the good fight to make sure that our people would have a better life with hope for the future. We all need to give ourselves a pat on the back for a job well done. None of us gave up even though we all have experienced our ups and downs and we have agreed to disagree on occasions as does happen in most families. In the long run through dedication with the support and wisdom of our Elders and the strength in the spirit of our ancestors we have managed to improve the lives of our Wabun members.

I believe the key to our successes has been our ability to keep going and to develop a little more every day through hard work and creativity. The proof is in the pudding as they say. Wabun Tribal Council has been looked at over the past

decade as having one of the best negotiating systems in terms of dealing with resource development. When courts paved the way for Aboriginal consultation in resource development projects on Native land about a decade ago our Chiefs instructed Wabun administration to move ahead with negotiation and consultation strategies so that our First Nations could benefit from development in mining, forestry and hydro projects and initiatives on our lands. I must say we hit the ground running and in a few years we emerged with many agreements that have helped change the lives of our members for the good. I point with pride to our development with HydroMega in agreements that provide us with ownership in power plants that will reap us financial rewards far into the future. Our members are working in mines and other resource development areas where we have signed agreements that have led to employment, training and business opportunities.

For years now Wabun Tribal Council has been recognized as a leader when it comes to negotiating and benefiting from resource development through all kinds of agreements and partnerships. At this point we are recognized on an international, Pan-American, national, provincial and local level for our successes in this area. Our Chiefs throughout the years have been strong, supportive and resourceful in putting Wabun Tribal Council on the trail to prosperity yet with respect for the land and our traditions and culture. I was invited to present to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank on third world development in Washington recently and before that I spoke on our successes to business and indigenous peoples in Ecuador on invitation of the Government Of Canada. Last year I participated in presentations to the United Nations and I have made presented to Native and Non Native groups and organizations all across Canada. I am humbled by the trust, support and direction I receive from our Chiefs to continue with our work and to share when we can our recipe for success with others. When I rise to stand and speak before a room filled with hundreds of people I remember where I have come from. I think of how things were only a couple of decades ago in our First Nations. I think of my son and all my nieces and nephews and what a wonderful future they can look forward to. I think about the long, winding, difficult, challenging and supremely rewarding trail I have been on and then I simply tell our Wabun story.

HEALTH MATTERS

Wabun Tribal Council celebrates a quarter of a century anniversary this year. As a Wabun member I can tell you that I have witnessed many positive changes in our First Nations over the years. Of course as Health Director my experience over the years has been involved in lobbying for and attaining first rate health services for all of our members.

I know how difficult things were in the 70s, 80s and 90s on our Wabun First Nations. There was so little available in terms of health services and everything was administered by the government and layers of bureaucracy.

Today, when I visit my family and friends in our First Nations I see thriving communities and it gives me satisfaction to know that everyone is getting the health care they need.

When I have talked with our Wabun Chiefs over the years and our Elders stories of hardship and struggle have always come up. Our people had nothing. We had little or no infrastructure in our First Nations, few opportunities of employment, critical housing shortages, little in terms of educational support and most importantly next to nothing in terms of health care. There were no health nurses in the community, no health centres, no patient transportation services, no health promotion, prevention, immunization, communicable disease control, health teaching, home visits, community visits, prenatal and post natal teaching, well baby clinics, school health, adult health, chronic disease and long term

care. There was no diabetes care in place even though First Nation people were identified as being pre-disposed to this debilitating disease. We had no long term care in place or crisis team coordination.

Perhaps most importantly we as First Nation people did not have control of our own health care. We did not have the capacity way back then to advocate for our members at a high level. It was difficult or impossible to be proactive or to lobby for critical health funding and services. That all changed when Wabun Tribal Council was formed and later on when Wabun Health managed to make history in Ontario by becoming the first Health Transfer from Health Canada so that for the first time ever we actually had control of developing, implementing and administering health care for our Wabun members.

Today, when I visit my family and friends in our Wabun First Nations I see thriving, prosperous communities and it gives me much satisfaction to know that our Elders, mom's and dad's and youth are getting the health care services they need. We have a first rate Community Health Nursing Program in which registered nurses work on site in our First Nations. Our Patient Transportation Program works with our Community Health Representatives to arrange for finances, travel and the details in getting our member clients or patients identified care with physicians or Traditional Healers.

Our Diabetes Strategy guarantees that a Community Health Nurse focuses on providing a strategy of preventative medicine and encouraging people to manage their own health. Most importantly our Health Team is involved in coordination with area First Response teams in both First Nation communities and local muni-

**Jean
Lemieux
Health
Director**



cipalities to ensure the safety of the Wabun communities through their comprehensive emergency response plans. We no longer just rely on outside help deciding when, where and how to deal with emergency situations as we are the ones making the critical decisions for our members. Our Community Crisis teams work hand in hand with our First Response Teams to provide debriefing. Our Long Term Care (LTC) program allows for nursing assessment of LTC clients, case management and advocacy for clients, foot care clinics and other nursing services for clients in Wabun communities. Our elders and members who need care are no longer falling through the cracks in our health system.

Today Native and non-Native governments and organizations in health look to Wabun Tribal Council's Health Department as a shining example

To face and deal with critical issues of mental health and addictions we have a history now of providing teaching workshops with the support and involvement of international experts, our traditional healers/teachers and Elders. Today Native and non-Native governments and organizations in health look to Wabun Tribal Council's Health Department as a shining example of the kind of positive development that can happen with our own people in control. I am humbled and grateful to our Chiefs past and present, to all our health staff people over the years and most importantly to all our Wabun members for giving me the honour to head up Wabun's Health Department.

Front Page

Janelle Golinowski is a member of Mattagami First Nation and a participant of the Miss North Ontario Regional Canada Pageant 2014 and several other events where she has represented her First Nation. Her participation in events has presented her First Nation in a positive spirit of pride and hope. As our front cover model for this edition of Wabun Sun marking the tribal council's 25th Anniversary, she is a shining example of what the Wabun First Nations represents and hope for the future of Wabun Tribal Council and its member First Nations.

***photo by Claude J Gagnon, Professional Photography & Imaging
www.cjgagnon.com***

Janelle Golinowski - A Beautiful Role Model

Janelle Golinowski is the featured Youth Of The Issue for this edition of Wabun Sun. Over the past year, she has done much to promote and present a positive image of her home community through her participation in the Miss North Ontario Regional Canada Pageant 2014. She is also a role model for youth in her home community of Mattagami First Nation.

"I was very excited and happy to represent Mattagami First Nation at such a major event. It gave me an opportunity to promote and celebrate our Aboriginal culture and to serve as a positive role model for other young First Nation women," said Golinowski.

In late 2013 she was scouted by organizers of the Miss North Ontario Regional Canada Pageant 2014 event to take part as a contestant in May 2014. The Miss North Ontario Regional Canada Pageant is an annual event featuring young women between the ages of 13 to 24. The event was created to help foster personal development in contestants as well as to promote and support charitable organizations and tourism in Northern Ontario.

Golinowski was given the choice of what community she could represent which normally meant representing a major city or town as a means to stand out. She opted to represent her home First Nation of Mattagami FN. This was the first time ever anyone had done so in her northern wilderness community.

Happily she placed in the top 16 out of a total of 46 contestants that took part in the event and she was also awarded the Miss Entrepreneur Award for her efforts in gathering the most sponsors. She was also given the opportunity to participate as a contestant in the Miss Teen Ontario

event in October 2014 and other regional and national pageants. In addition she also has the opportunity to participate again in future Miss North Ontario Regional Canada Pageant events.

As a pageant representative for her community, Golinowski has been proud to represent her First Nation in a variety of events related to her involvement in the pageant. She has spoken at gatherings, taken part in photo opportunities at major events and gatherings and she has made presentations to local youth. Golinowski is also a traditional dancer. She performed at the Mattagami Pow Wow 2014 event and has been invited to the 2015 event as Youth Lead Female Dancer.

In addition to organizing her time with pageant events, Golinowski completed her secondary education in 2014 and graduated from Timmins High and Vocational School. She is planning on taking post secondary education in nursing in the next few years and follow in her sister Tianna's steps in becoming a nurse. In the meantime Janelle Golinowski wants to concentrate her time on promoting her community by becoming more active in pageant events. She credits much of her success to the support of her family, friends and community. She commented that she lives by the motto of 'Never a failure, always a lesson'.

Golinowski also roots herself in learning as much as she can about her culture. She takes part in other traditional activities such as hunting, trapping and fishing. Her boyfriend Devon Naveau is the grandson of Elder Leonard Naveau, a prominent leader and traditional Elder in Mattagami FN.

She pointed out that she is grateful for



JANELLE GOLINOWSKI, AS MISS MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION REPRESENTING HER COMMUNITY DURING A LOCAL EVENT IN THE FIRST NATION WITH NATIONAL GRAND CHIEF PERRY BELLEGARDE, OF THE ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS.

the support of her sponsors including: Mattagami First Nation, IAMGOLD, Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services, Debastos & Sons, Claude J.Gagnon Photography, Mattagami Confectionary & Gas Bar, Lake Shore Gold, Wabun Tribal Council, Martin Fuels, Big O Smoke Shack, Katelyn Malo Photography and W.C. McKay Consulting Services.

Logo Contest Announced

Unleash your creativity and create a new Wabun Tribal Council logo in celebration of 25 Years servicing our First Nation communities.

The lucky winner of the contest will receive a cash prize of \$1000.00 and his/her name will be announced at the Wabun Tribal Council AGM. The winner will be invited to attend the unveiling of our new logo with all expenses paid. Winning design maybe modified.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

- It must be an original design
- Must be a member of a Wabun First Nation Community
- Your design needs to be in colour
- Artwork will not be returned

CAPTURE WHAT WABUN MEANS:
Eastern Direction, Sunrise or Morning

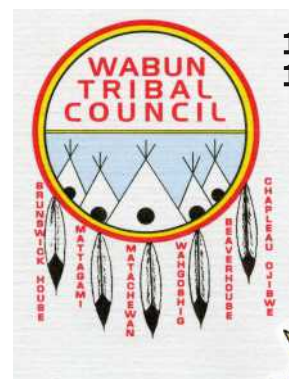
SUBMISSION

Your design must be submitted by July 31st, 2015 at 4:30 pm by mail or drop off at our office to:

SHAWN BATISE
313 RAILWAY ST.
TIMMINS, ON.
P4N 2P4

DISCLAIMER

By submitting your design, the artist of the logo ensures his/her design to be original and not plagiarized in any way. He/she also understands that my artwork will not be returned. If his/her logo is chosen as the winning design, all rights to the design or any reproduction in whole or in part belong solely & exclusively to Wabun Tribal Council.



1990 to 1999 Logo



1999 to 2015 Logo

Elder Morris Naveau Featured



Elder Morris Naveau,
Mattagami First Nation

Elder Morris Naveau is the featured Elder for this issue of the Wabun Sun.

He has been a strong supporter of Wabun Tribal Council over the years. He congratulated the leaders of Wabun Tribal Council for having produced many programs and initiatives over the past 25 years that has improved life for Wabun First Nation members. Elder Naveau believes that the role of the tribal council has been to strengthen the voice of Aboriginal people in the Wabun territory by bringing the member First Nations together as a group for the common good of each of their communities.

"Before Wabun, all our affairs were governed and controlled by Indian Affairs and the Canadian government. When we banded together as a council of First Nations in a common territory, things changed for the better. We became more self sufficient and more active in the lives of our communities socially, economically and administratively. We banded together as a group of First Nation with a stronger voice and it has been great to see the positive changes we have been able to create over the past 25 years," said Elder Naveau.

Born in Sudbury, he was raised on Lake Mattagami on the old reserve lands of Mattagami First Nation until he was ten years of age. He was raised by his parents Walter and Mary Jane Naveau in a traditional lifestyle of hunting, trapping and fishing on the land. His father lived mainly as a traditional hunter and gatherer and his mother, Mary Jane Naveau was the first Community Health Representative for the First Nation.

In the early 1990s, Elder Naveau went back to school and attended post secondary education in Timmins and Sudbury to train as an Alcohol and Drug Abuse Worker. He graduated from a three year program at Cambrian College in Sudbury in 1994 and soon after he went on to work for his community as a National Native Alcohol

and Drug Abuse Prevention (NNADAP) Worker for several years.

He also served as Chief of his community for one term.

He is a strong supporter of access to education for young people. As a residential school survivor, Elder Naveau explained that his experiences with the education system as a young boy had a very negative affect on his life.

"I attended residential school for one year in 1961 and it was a traumatic experience for me. It changed my life negatively. When I see our young people now, I want to encourage them to get as much education as possible because my generation had such a hard time with it in the past. Education can help our young people now to lead healthier fuller lives. In fact I am very proud to see our very own elementary school right here in our First Nation. This is where we give our children a good start," said Elder Naveau.

In recent years, Mattagami First Nation administration, health services and local members have worked hard at bringing back cultural and traditional activities in part to deal with social issues and support young people. Elder Naveau said that he is happy to see the renewed interest and resurgence of Aboriginal culture and traditions in his community.

He is hopeful for the future of the Wabun territory. Having witnessed so many changes during his life time, Elder Naveau explained that both Youth and Elders have an important role to play in Wabun's future.

"We have to maintain a connection to our past and our cultural roots while also doing our best to live in a contemporary world. Our Elders keep us rooted in our traditions and we need to support our young people to ensure a bright future for all our communities," said Elder Naveau.

***The more we
support one
another, the
stronger our
communities
become***

Wabun continues to develop in many areas by supporting its member First Nations in key areas of economic development, self sustainability, self governance, health, training and employment. Elder Naveau said that the more the First Nations of Wabun work together, the brighter their future becomes.

"The more we support one another, the stronger our communities become. Eventually, our young people now will take over from us and they will have a better place to start from. They will be the ones to take us to greater development and self sustainability," said Elder Naveau.

In Loving Memory



Wabun Tribal Council was saddened at the passing of Amy McKay and her baby Emma Chantal Rocheleau who both tragically passed away at the Timmins and District Hospital, April 13, 2015. Amy was employed as our Non Wabun Health Clerk. She was a very dedicated, kind person and she will be missed by everyone she worked with and who knew her. She leaves her husband Remi Rocheleau and children Ryan and Ally. She is also survived by her mother Paulette McKay (Lee McKeown), father Paul Roy, siblings Julie McKay (Gord), Chris McKay (Alyssa), James McKay, Shawn McKeown (Cathy) and Cory McKeown (Teila). She was a much loved member of Mattagami First Nation.

Wabun Tribal Council

Wabun Tribal Council marked its 25th Anniversary in April 2015. From its creation by the Chiefs of Wabun, the Tribal Council has provided administrative and Health Care administration through a variety of services which are guided by Wabun executive and staff. The Council has also employed many individual Wabun members who are community based.



**Founding
Chief
Baptiste
Memegoes,
Chapleau
Ojibwe
First Nation**

In recent years Wabun Tribal Council, again with the guidance of the Wabun Chiefs, has emerged as one of the most successful tribal councils in Canada in terms of developing resource development agreements with the private sector and governments. Spurred on by court decisions and advancements in political and public will, Wabun's executive and administrative staff has developed an expertise and dedication to working with resource based corporations and governments. Their hard work has gone on to produce scores of Impact and Benefits Agreements (IBAs), Memorandums Of Understanding (MOUs) and Exploration Agreements (EAs) with positive results. This has created a new era of prosperity and opportunity for Wabun First Nation members through training, employment and business entrepreneurship opportunities.

When Wabun Chiefs originally decided to move on their vision of creating a strong centralized voice through the development of a Tribal Council, they did so in following a concept that grew out of the 1970s, 80s and 90s. These decades marked the creation of Aboriginal organizations such as the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) and many others across Canada.

The founding Chiefs of Wabun Tribal Council included: Lawrence Naveau, Mattagami FN; Clifford Diamond, Wahgoshig FN; Baptiste Memegoes, Chapleau Ojibwe FN;

Joseph Saunders, Brunswick House FN and Barney Batise, Matachewan FN. Beaverhouse FN and Flying Post FN joined the Tribal Council later. The founding members realized that a coordinated front with strength in numbers would be more effective in dealing with governments at the Federal and Provincial levels, various organizations and the private sector.

Prior to the creation of council, Wabun First Nations were limited in their own capacity to deal with government agencies in terms of staff and expertise. In most cases the struggling First Nations were at the mercy of government bureaucrats and had difficulty in identifying and sourcing funding opportunities for development on many levels.

Wabun Tribal Council was formed or incorporated in October 1989 and started operations in Timmins in April 1990. The Council was formed under the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) devolution policy to coordinate and deliver services devolved from INAC to First Nation communities at the local level. The main objectives of Wabun include: promotion of self-reliance, provision for its members' health, education, social and economic development needs and the enhancement of the unique cultures, traditions and language of its members.



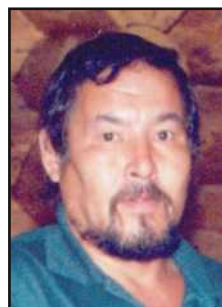
**Founding
Chief Barney
Batise,
Matachewan
First Nation**

The Wabun Tribal Council is incorporated under the province of Ontario's Business Corporations Act, as a non-share capital corporation (non-profit) and administers funds and performs services as contracted with various funding bodies, including Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Employment and Immigration Canada, National Health and Welfare Canada, the Provincial Ministry of Health and others.

The Wabun Tribal Council Health Services department is a shining ex-

ample of how a Native organization has successfully taken over the administration of what was once a federal government responsibility. Even better, Wabun's Health Services department made history in December 1993, as the first such organization in Ontario, to take control of health programming from the Medical Services Branch of Health Canada.

The council's Health Services department took a further step in 1996, when it assumed responsibility for long term care programming in Wabun First Nation communities from the Ontario Ministry of Health.



**Founding
Chief Clifford
Diamond,
Wahgoshig
First Nation**

Also in 1996, the Council set up and financed a development organization without outside grants. The creation of a Development Corporation was put in place by the Wabun Board of Directors. This was done with the idea of developing a more independent and forward thinking concept dedicated to realizing profits from intelligent investments that would then be shared by Wabun First Nations.

In 1998, Wabun purchased a commercial office building in Timmins, Ontario to house its staff in a more permanent location. The purchase was achieved through sound financial management with no grant assistance. This move has provided a means of raising income as space in the building is rented out and at the same time Wabun Tribal Council and Wabun Health Services have a central location in a modern building complex. Instead of paying rent for space the development corporation benefits by rent paid by business tenants.

The purchase and renovation of the building complex was the first big investment made by the Development Corporation. The benefits were far reaching and as a matter of fact the renovations were actually contracted out to local Wabun First Nation members.

Marks 25th Anniversary

Today the development corporation profits though the rental of the space in it's own building and through smart money market investments.

As a means to administer its own employment and training programs, Wabun Tribal Council developed a new regional service called Wabun Training and Employment Services in 2005. This created a more cost effective and efficient means to administer and control training and employment services for Wabun First Nations.

In early 2009, Wabun Tribal Council assisted its First Nations in developing The New Relationship Fund, an initiative that would create more capacity and support staff in each community to represent their respective First Nations in lands and resources issues. Wabun Tribal Council together with its member First Nations acquired this funding from the Ontario government to deal with the increasing demand of personnel and expertise in current and future natural resource development projects and negotiations.



**Founding
Chief
Lawrence
Naveau,
Mattagami
First Nation**

Flying Post First Nation, formerly an independent First Nation in the NAN territory, joined the Wabun Tribal Council in 2007. At the time of the new union, Chief Murray Ray expressed hope that his First Nation would gain new benefits and opportunities by becoming part of Wabun Tribal Council.

"We are excited to become part of Wabun. I have been Chief of our community for many years and I have watched how this tribal council has developed and worked for their First Nations. The leaders of this council are good and knowledgeable people. Our community can only see great things for the future in joining Wabun Tribal Council," said Chief Ray.

Wabun First Nations and its members have been enjoying the successes achieved under the direction of success-

ive Wabun Chiefs. Since the creation of Wabun Tribal Council, the organization's executive has worked tirelessly in the development of the Technical Services and Economic Development department to improve the quality of life for its First Nation members. The resulting infrastructure and business developments have produced modern First Nations with services and facilities that many Native communities in Canada do not have.

Over the years, the Council has assisted in and supported the creation of economic development opportunities, businesses, partnerships and training which have produced growth and prosperity in each of its member First Nations. In some cases this has actually

INTERNATIONAL, NORTH AMERICAN AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION

meant an increase in on reserve membership.

Under the direction of Wabun Chiefs, the Tribal Council's Executive Director, Shawn Batise and his staff have assisted in negotiations and the implementation of IBAs, EAs and partnership opportunities that have come about with resource development.

Although Batise can point to many successes in terms of mining, forestry and hydro development, he explained that Wabun as a tribal council institution does not benefit directly from any of these agreements. In fact Wabun Tribal Council acts only to facilitate these agreements through networking, lobbying and representation to governments and the private sector resource developers.

After working to develop an expertise in resource development negotiations over many years Wabun Tribal Council has become a leader in this area. Batise and his staff have been invited to share their experiences and successes at international, Pan-American, national, provincial and local levels.

Most recently, Batise was invited to Washington D.C., United States by the World Bank to make a presentation in regards to the Tribal Council's experiences concerning Aboriginal negotiations with resource development

companies and government.

In March of 2015, Batise was also invited to Ecuador in South America, by the Canadian Embassy to make presentations regarding Aboriginal resource development negotiations. He was asked to speak to government officials, indigenous groups, industry representatives and other associated groups as well. He spent two days meeting with representatives, where he conducted panel presentations at the Simon Bolivar University, as well as meetings with local academics and various other groups.

"The presentations were all about meeting with individual groups and telling them about what we did here in Canada in our territory. I provided them with a different viewpoint and how they could adapt these views to their country and situations," said Batise.

In 2014, Batise was also invited to speak at United Nations permanent forum on indigenous issues. Earlier in the same year, he was asked to participate at an indigenous knowledge event on resource development at McGill University in Montreal.

He has presented at the Prospectors and Development Association of Canada (PDAC) mining conference in Toronto on three occasions. Wabun has become a known participant in the annual PDAC convention where First Nations and mining development companies have called upon the Tribal Council administration for presentations on their successes.

Batise has also spoken at the Canadian Aboriginal Mineral Association annual conference, the Ontario Mining Association annual conference, the Beyond Section 35: Building Relationship Symposium in Calgary in 2013 (an event for government, Aboriginal leaders and industry representatives concerning ongoing resource development in Canada), as well as numerous other major and minor conferences.

He pointed out that when he is invited to participate or present to First Nation government, organizations, or industry at large those who make the invitation also cover his costs to attend an event.

A photo of Founding Chief Joseph Saunders will be published in a future issue of Wabun Sun

Derailments Impact Mattagami FN

Mattagami First Nation leadership jumped into action to deal with an environmental disaster when on March 7, 2015 a Canadian National (CN) train carrying crude oil derailed south of Timmins near Mattagami FN.

The derailment site affected the traditional lands of the Mattagami FN as the spill occurred at a railway trestle bridge over the Makami River which leads to Minisinakwa Lake and the Mattagami River system. Thirty-five cars from the train of 94 tanker cars carrying crude oil from Alberta left the track. Five of the tanker cars ended up in the Makami River. The derailment occurred near what is known in railway terminology as Ruel 88 and burst into flames during the accident. In addition to spilling oil into the environment the derailment resulted in fire fighting crews spending four days fighting the blaze. The nearby communities of Gogama and Mattagami First Nation were put on alert due to the black smoke and intense fire that occurred.

During the long cleanup that was conducted, CN reported that approximately 1.4 million litres of oily water was collected and transported off site to an approved treatment facility. In April, CN also reported that approximately 11,500 tonnes of soil was collected and transported off site to an approved disposal facility in Cartier, Ontario.

This was the second major derailment to occur near Mattagami FN and Gogama over a short period. The first happened on February 14 and it involved a 100 tanker car long train carrying crude oil and distillates. Twenty-nine cars left the track and a subsequent fire raged for days after the accident. According to a press release issued by the Transportation Safety Board of Canada, an estimate of over one million litres of product was released.

In northern Ontario, the February 14 and March 7 accidents near Gogama, Ontario were actually two of three derailments to occur in early 2015. On March 5, a third derailment involving a mixed manifest train occurred in Ruel Subdivision near Minnipuka southeast of Hornepayne, Ontario. Although no fire or spill occurred in this derailment, it did involve what are termed as residue cars, or tanker cars that had recently carried flammable liquids.

"Our initial reaction to the derailment nearby on March 7 was shock at such a tragic emergency. There was a huge fire and it was obvious a very bad spill had happened. There was much smoke and of course that was an immediate threat to health. When the fire was finally put out



**Chief Walter Naveau,
Mattagami
First Nation**

and we later learned about how much damage was caused by the spill, our concern turned more so to the land," commented Chief Walter Naveau, Mattagami FN.

He explained that although Mattagami FN has been working closely with CN in dealing with the derailment his First Nation has deep concerns about the short term and long term environment and ecological consequences of the oil spill. He added that his community as well as other First Nations are also concerned about the fact that tanker cars of oil and petroleum products will continue to be transported on the rail line and that there will be more spills.

To cope with all the information provided by CN, environmental monitoring and the cleanup effort, Mattagami FN leadership brought on board consultant Caroline Burgess, Managing Director of Burgess Environmental Planning, to organize and develop a plan of action for the community.



**Caroline Burgess,
Burgess
Environmental
Planning**

"There were a million tasks that had to be dealt with from the start as well as sharing with all the information and communications with everyone as the cleanup and monitoring progressed. It has been amazing to see the resilience of Mattagami FN in reacting to this situation," said Burgess.

In the weeks and months after the derailment, she has helped the First Nation in coordinating their participation includ-

ing the hiring of First Nation workers to take part in the clean up efforts. Her role has also been in coordinating communications between First Nation leadership, the community, the company, outside Native and non-Native organizations and government agencies.

The First Nation also hired Ryan Wheeler, Owner / Consultant of Shearwater Environmental Emergency Solutions Inc. to assist the First Nation in independently interpreting and understanding the environmental and ecological concerns of the oil spill.

"My role is to interpret science language and data in a way that everyone can understand. I also take the concerns of the community, its Elders and its leaders into a more scientific presentation that can be understood by the regulatory agencies involved," said Wheeler.



**Ryan Wheeler,
Shearwater
Environmental
Emergency
Solutions Inc**

He has almost 20 years of experience in environmental science and engineering and now uses his expertise in environmental emergency prevention, preparedness and response services. Wheeler has been involved in a variety of projects across the country, in the United States and in Asia.

In his current involvement with Mattagami FN, he is working with regulatory agencies, company representatives and the community in monitoring ongoing testing.

"Every spill is unique and we don't know what the short term or long term effects will be. In the past, traditional and cultural knowledge was never acknowledged but now everyone is more aware of the consequences of these spills and how it affects the land. The First Nation wants everyone to understand the importance of their connection to the land. Their community's cultural input into the scientific data brings another layer of information to the picture," said Wheeler.

The clean up efforts are now centred

on rebuilding the environmental and ecological health of the affected area. Wheeler explained that the main efforts are directed towards restoring the affected area back to its original state as much as is possible. Remediation also means monitoring of scientific, environmental and ecological data on a regular basis to ensure the work is creating the desired positive outcomes.

Shawn Batise, Executive Director of Wabun Tribal Council explained that Wabun leadership was quick to ask government officials to deal with the spill soon after it occurred. His office contacted the Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and on March 12 Minister David Zimmer toured the affected site and met with Mattagami First Nation leadership. Batise and the Wabun Tribal Council staff has also kept in contact with Mattagami First Nation Chief, council and CN officials in terms of assisting the First Nation in dealing with clean up efforts and environmental monitoring.

“Despite the major spill that CN Rail caused, I give them credit for doing anything and everything they could to address our concerns. However, the more important issue is that we are seeing more and more of these disastrous spills on our lands and something has to be done about it,” said Batise.

He added that since there had been a spill nearby three weeks before, it was fortunate in a way that CN still had



MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION LEADERSHIP, STAFF AND MEMBERS ALONG WITH WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL WORKED WITH CANADIAN NATIONAL (CN) TO DEAL WITH TRAIN DERAILMENTS ON FEBRUARY 14 AND MARCH 7, 2015.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JAMES NAVEAU, MATTAGAMI FN.

equipment and man power nearby and available to react quickly to the March 7 derailment.

The events of the three train derailments of oil tanker cars which have all occurred in the greater Wabun territory, also shadows the concerns of the proposed TransCanada Energy East Project. This project proposes to send oil and petroleum products to Canada's east coast

by pipeline that would pass through Wabun First Nation territory in north-eastern Ontario.

“What do we do? We are in the situation where we have to figure out – is one better than the other. Is transporting oil and petroleum products by rail better than pipeline? It seems as if we have to pick our poison when it comes to this issue. What we need from the companies that are involved in this transportation is some kind of commitment and assistance in dealing with future spills and believe me they will happen,” explained Batise.

He commented that the fact still remains that oil and petroleum products will continue to be transported through the territorial lands of the Wabun First Nations. The greatest concerns that the Wabun leaders have voiced is what happens when an environmental event or disaster occurs. Batise explained that no matter what is decided, oil and dangerous products will continue to be transported through their territory and it will be the Wabun communities that will carry the risks of potential accidents while distant industries, companies and non-Native government reap the full benefits of these projects and none of the danger associated with these spills.

“Our people live on this land. We fish, hunt and gather on our lands as we have been for many generations. We can not sit idly by and watch as these tragic spills happen in our backyard. There has to be some commitment regarding responsibility and compensation when it comes to the affect it has on our members lives,” explained Batise.



A MAJOR TRAIN DERAILMENT OCCURRED NEAR MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION ON MARCH 7, 2015. HERE WE SEE THE RESSULTS OF A MAJOR FIRE AND SPILL.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JAMES NAVEAU, MATTAGAMI FN.

Christine Dobson New CHN For Mattagami FN



Christine Dobson,
Community Health Nurse
Mattagami First Nation

Christine Dobson has taken on the role of Community Health Nurse (CHN) for Mattagami First Nation. She started her new position on May 19, 2015. Dobson will be responsible for delivering many of the health care programs in the community including immunization clinics, diabetes programs and nutritional programs for individuals of all ages including children, adults and the elderly. She will also work closely with Wabun Health Care staff in developing and maintaining health care programs as well as advocating for clients to access services.

Dobson, a member of the Moose Cree First Nation on the James Bay

coast, brings to Wabun many years of health care service experience through previous positions in Aboriginal organizations.

"As a First Nation person, I feel very comfortable in this position as I have worked in Aboriginal organizations for most of my career in health care. I understand many of the obstacles and challenges there are for the community but I have also witnessed what is possible when we all work as a team to help our people," said Dobson.

In 1990 she completed a three year nursing program in Moosonee with Northern College. Since then she has continually and regularly updated and upgraded her training and education in health care services.

For 18 years she worked for the Weeneebayko Health Authority, an Aboriginal health care organization that serves the isolated communities of James Bay. Dobson was the Out Patient Coordinator, a position where she helped to coordinate specialty clinics where visiting medical professionals could see clients directly in

the community rather than having to transport patients to hospitals in southern Ontario.

She also worked for Misiway Milopemahtesewin Community Health Centre in Timmins for seven years as a Clinic Nurse where she worked with clients and helped to manage the organization's regular health clinic.

Before joining Wabun Health, Dobson took a year off from work to stay in her home community to provide personal palliative care for her 94 year old father Frederick Echum. She said that it was an important task for her and her family as it was their father's wish to stay at home. Her mother Barbara Echum had passed on in 2001.

She has six children Dianna, Morgan, Curtis, Tessa, Bradley and Sarah. Her family keeps her busy as almost all her children are involved in sporting activities especially organized hockey at multiple levels. Their family also takes part in traditional activities and when they can, they head out for hunting trips on their traditional lands in the north.

Cecille Wesley Welcomed Back As CHN

The Wabun Health Services team welcomes back Cecille Wesley, as Community Health Nurse (CHN) for the First Nations of Chapleau Ojibwe and Brunswick House. She started her new duties in May 2015. Wesley had been with Wabun Health before and had worked as CHN for Chapleau area First Nations from 1998 to 2006.

"I am happy to be getting back to work with these Wabun communities again. I am looking forward to getting reacquainted with everyone in the two First Nations and to help the communities with their health care needs," said Wesley.

Her main responsibilities in both Wabun communities include essential health services in areas such as health promotion, prevention, immunization, communicable disease control, health teaching, home visits, community visits, prenatal and postnatal teaching, well baby clinics, school health, adult health, chronic disease and long term care. Most of her weekly schedule will be spent in meeting with and assisting clients in either Chapleau Ojibwe or Brunswick House First Nations and periodically she will visit the Wabun



Cecille Wesley,
Community Health Nurse
Chapleau Area First Nations

office in Timmins to meet with health staff there.

Originally from Moose Cree First Nation, Wesley is a current member of the Chapleau Cree First Nation. She is in tune with the needs of a northern Native community as she has gained much experience from her personal life and professional career.

"As a First Nation person, I enjoy making the best use of my training and experience to help our First Nation members. I feel comfortable in this role as I get to interact with the community at all age levels," said Wesley.

She brings many years of experience in nursing to Wabun Health. She has worked mainly for Aboriginal organizations in nursing positions for the

Moose Cree First Nation, Weeneebayko General Hospital in Moose Factory and as a CHN for Mushkegowuk Council. In 2006, she worked as Community Health Coordinator for the Moose Factory Health Centre and later as a Diabetes Educator with Misiway Milopemahtesewin in Timmins. In all, Wesley has acquired more than 25 years of nursing experience to her career in health care.

She completed her nursing program with Northern College at its Moosonee Campus on the James Bay coast as well as acquiring additional training with the Northern Clinical Nursing Program which was offered through McMaster University. Over the years, Wesley complimented her training and education in health care through certification as a Diabetes Educator through Cambrian College in Sudbury, as well as completing various health care courses and programs.

She and her husband Gerald Wesley have two sons Jeff and Glen. They enjoy spending time with their granddaughter six year old Bella, as well as their extended families in northern Ontario.

Tianna McKay-Golinowski Joins Wabun

Tianna McKay-Golinowski, Wabun Training and Employment Coordinator is the featured staff person for this edition of Wabun Sun. She recently started her new position on May 25 at the Wabun office in Timmins. McKay-Golinowski will be responsible for working directly with Wabun First Nation clients in dealing with employment and training programs and services. She will help individuals in ensuring that they are able to acquire, complete and move through application procedures for training and employment programs they are accessing.

"This is a familiar position for me as it is similar to the work I had to do with Wabun Health Services as their Health Clerk. I am still working with people on a one on one basis, which I enjoy doing but this time it is different in that I am helping them achieve their training and employment goals," said McKay-Golinowski.

Previous to taking on her new position in training and employment she was the Health Clerk in a short term position from April to May 2015.

McKay-Golinowski is currently in the process of completing a four year nursing program. She had started the program with Laurentian University in Sudbury for a year and a half but then moved to Timmins to complete the Bachelor Science of Nursing program at Northern College. She is midway

through completion of the program and McKay-Golinowski hopes to use her education to develop a career in health services. In addition, she is also taking added courses in Gerontology, which focuses on the study of aging. Currently, she is taking time away from her studies and will commence her program again in January 2016.

McKay-Golinowski enjoys travelling, especially to other parts of the world where she has been able to add to her experience and education. In the summer of 2012, she joined a travel group that provided humanitarian support for developing nations. She travelled with over 20 other young people from southern Canada to a small community in Nairobi in Africa for two weeks.

"This was a big cultural shock for me as we got to see people who do not have the same opportunities as we do in Canada. Even though there was poverty everywhere, we still were surrounded by people who were proud and hard working. I have so many good memories but one of the best images I look back on were of the children, who were grateful for everything they had and were contagious in hope with their positive energy," said McKay-Golinowski.

She enjoys working towards her goals in health care and over the past few years, she has taken on short term employment opportunities in her community. In 2014, she was a Health Sup-



Tianna McKay-Golinowski,
Wabun Training
& Employment
Coordinator

port Worker who assisted the Health Care Team for Mattagami First Nation. As part of her duties, she was given an opportunity to develop and plan the community's second annual Diabetes Workshop.

She enjoys keeping busy and in acquiring new experiences through work, education and travel. She encourages other young people to add to their experiences and to push their boundaries.

"I want other youth to not be afraid of what is out there, outside their communities. Travel whether near or far is a great way of building confidence and a means to gaining newer experiences and knowledge. We are part of a big world and most of the time we only experience a small part of it," said McKay-Golinowski.

She is a member of Mattagami First Nation. Her parents are Patsy McKay and Dana Golinowski and she has a younger brother Ethan McKay and younger sister Janelle Golinowski.

Therese Manilla Dedicated To FN Health



Therese Manilla,
First Nation
and Inuit
Health Branch
of Health
Canada

The staff at Wabun Health Services gave a heartfelt thanks to Therese Manilla as she ended 14 years of service as Community Health Nurse for Mattagami First Nation and Nurse Manager for Wabun Health Services. On May 11, 2015, Manilla moved on to the position of Senior Advisor, Programs Delivery for the Director of Nursing, Ontario Region, First Nation and Inuit Health Branch of Health Canada.

"I am grateful to Wabun and Mattagami for giving me so many great memories. There are far too many people to thank but the greatest moments I take away are the connections and friendships I made with everyone in our offices and in our communities over the years. It also feels good that I am not far away either as I will continue to stay in contact with our communities and advocate for First Nation health care," said Manilla.

Her responsibilities in her new position will be to ensure that health care programs are being delivered and reported on in the Ontario Region. This will put her in direct and regular contact with First Nation health care organizations across the province.

"It is very satisfying for me to advocate for First Nation health care and to help our communities ensure that

programs and services continue to be developed and expanded to the needs of the community," said Manilla.

She believes in working towards more equitable health services for everyone. Manilla added that this is especially true for northern communities as these programs inevitably create healthier and more prosperous environments for individuals to thrive in all areas.

Originally from South Porcupine in Timmins, Manilla has a health care services career that spans over 23 years, mainly for Aboriginal organizations in northern Ontario. Previous to Wabun Health, she took on several positions in administrative and nursing for communities on the James Bay coast.

She and her husband Robert enjoy spending time with their family including their daughter Ashley and two grandchildren John and Grace.

Faye Naveau Welcomed To Wabun Health



Faye Naveau,
Regional Crisis
Coordinator
and Crisis
Intervention
Worker

Faye Naveau is the new Regional Crisis Coordinator and Crisis Intervention Worker for Wabun Health Services. She started her new position on May 25, 2015 and she will be responsible for providing client based support services and counselling. One of her main roles will be in dealing with suicide and family violence and in developing and maintaining the Community Crisis program and in working with the broader community crisis teams in each of Wabun's communities.

"I look forward to working with the Wabun Health Team and each of our First Nations. This is a great opportunity for me to not only apply the education and experience I have acquired but also the lessons and teachings I have learned from my Elders and traditional teachers," said Naveau.

She joined Wabun Tribal Council in December 2014 when she took on the temporary position of Wabun Training and Employment Services (WTES) Coordinator. Upon completing this role in May 2015, she joined Wabun Health Ser-

vices to apply her mostly social service and health care background to a new position with the tribal council.

Naveau brings a wealth of personal and professional experience through almost 30 years of being involved in administrative and health care related positions. She started as a Health Care Aide in 1985 and then moved on to complete a Social Service Worker Program and graduate with honours in 1992. At the same time in 1992, she was involved as a member of a steering committee for Aboriginal Health that would eventually form the Misiway Milopemahtesewin Community Health Centre (CHC) in Timmins.

She lived in Sarnia, Ontario for a time where she took additional training and education as a Computer Programmer Analyst and in Executive Office Administration. Naveau moved back to Timmins and in 2001 worked for the Timmins and District Hospital as a Medical Transcriptionist. She also worked for the Community Access Centre in Timmins to provide Administrative Support.

At one time, Naveau also lived in Sudbury, where she worked for the Metis Nation of Ontario and at a local doctor's office that specialized in geriatric care.

She grew up in a non-Native home in Timmins and fully learned about her Aboriginal roots in her 20s. Since then, she became active in learning as much as she could about her Native background. Naveau was also able to reconnect with her father Lawrence Naveau of Mattagami First Nation, who worked

with her in several Aboriginal boards and organizations.

"I am proud of my connection to my First Nation and I feel good being in a position now where I am able to give back to my community," said Naveau.

She has learned much about Native ceremonies, traditional practices, First Nation medicines and Aboriginal teachings to compliment her western education. She received her Spirit Name 'First Thunder Woman' and has been identified as part of the Wolf Clan.

Her family suffered a tragic loss, when her 25 year old son Joseph Naveau passed on in January 2014. She took time away from work to grieve with her family and she credits much of her recovery to her connection to her cultural, spiritual and traditional roots. She was also grateful for the support of her family and friends through this difficult time. She also takes great comfort and joy in her daughter Josee Forget and granddaughter one year old Avery.

At 49 years of age, she continues to be active in her community and in the city of Timmins. Naveau regularly takes part in traditional teachings, ceremonies and programs as a participant and volunteer. She is also a member of Take Two Theatre, a local acting group in Timmins.



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Elder Alfred Batisse Remembered

Wabun Chiefs and staff were saddened at the news of the passing of Matachewan First Nation Elder Alfred Batisse, March 30, 2015. As a leader in the community he once sat as Chief and also on Council.

Alfred was born in Matachewan First Nation March 25, 1936 to the late James Batisse and Eugenia Kawasha. He is survived by his sisters, Vina Landry and Gertrude Nolin both of

Matachewan First Nation and Liza Dube of Quebec City. He was predeceased by siblings: Stanley Batisse, Linda Batisse and James Batisse. He is fondly remembered by godchildren, Chantal Dube and Real Boucher and dear friends Lionel and Jackie Boucher. His memory will be held dear by the many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews and great great nieces and nephews.

