

WABUN

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Sun

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REFLECTIONS



**Jason
Batise**
Executive
Director

There are so many good things happening in all of our Wabun First Nations these days. The successes and growth in our communities has to do with the dedication of our Wabun Chiefs, their Councils, Wabun staff and community members. With that in mind I want to thank Shawn Batise, who was a major spearheading force for Wabun Tribal Council for 25 years. He has moved on from his role here as our Executive Director to the position of Ontario Provincial Assistant Deputy Minister for the Negotiations and Reconciliation Division at the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

Of course we are happy for Shawn and very proud of him for achieving this prestigious position with the Ontario government, however we are also sad at his departure and we will all miss him. Thankfully, although he is now living in Toronto, he still calls the north his home and he will continue to keep in touch with Wabun Tribal Council and of course his family and friends back in Matachewan First Nation.

Over the quarter of a century that Shawn served Wabun Tribal Council he never shied away from the challenge of living up to the promise of the original founding Chiefs in establishing the Council. Those Chiefs and all of the Chiefs that followed in their footsteps realized that the banding together of our Wabun area First Nations was the best way to make things better for our community members. Shawn with the support of the Chiefs, guidance of our Elders and efforts of his staff developed the Council in a progressive and strategic way which has resulted in re-

spect and acknowledgement with Native and non-Native government, industry and organizations right across the country.

Shawn's job here at Wabun was not an easy one as he was on the front lines of developing a new way of dealing with and approaching industry and government in terms of our First Nations involvement. I know he was always thankful for the strong support of our Wabun Chiefs and the guidance of our Elders in having to negotiate agreements with industry and government. He had to be tough, diplomatic and knowledgeable in negotiations that were often difficult, complex and demanding. It is well known that any position that deals in leadership at executive levels is often wrought with difficulty. As our lead executive he was often on the firing line and managed to stay the course to deliver on his commitment to the Wabun Chiefs and community members. I know that when the going got rough he always drew strength from knowing that his efforts were making life better for everyone back home in our Wabun First Nations. He made us all proud.

***We really and
truly are all part
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First Nations
here at the
Council***

The transition with Shawn's move has been smooth in that we have long time, experienced executive management people in place like Jean Lemieux and Darlene St. Denis. I have been part of much of the strategic development Wabun has pursued over the years so I hit the ground running when offered the position of Executive Director by our Chiefs.

We really and truly are all part of the extended family of Wabun First Nations here at the Council. Our strength in numbers means we have developed the expertise and capacity to move ahead with major infrastructure improvements in all of our First Nations. We have developed over many years an award winning strategy and process in dealing with resource development companies and government in terms of projects on our traditional lands. Our Wabun Health Department has developed and produced efficient and well run community based care and programming as well as dedicated programs for our Elders and Wabun youth.

***We continue to
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I have watched our First Nations develop to become modern, safe, comfortable communities with the best in water utilities, housing, employment and business opportunities as well as education and training. Shawn has played a vital role over the years in this development and we thank him for that. We know that in his new role at such a prominent position he will represent Aboriginal people all across the province in the very best way.

In this issue of Wabun you will read a tribute story to Shawn and coverage of a major IBA signing between several Wabun First Nations and Tahoe Mining Resources in Timmins. You will also see articles on recent developments with the Borden Gold Project near Chapleau as well as an IBA signing with Imerys Talc. We continue to move forward on the good trail that our Chiefs, Elders, staff and community members have opened up for us.

HEALTH MATTERS

In this issue of Wabun Sun I want to congratulate our former Wabun Executive Director, Shawn Batise in moving to a very prestigious position with the Ontario government. I am confident that he is a great fit for his new role as Ontario Provincial Assistant Deputy Minister for the Negotiations and Reconciliation Division at the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. I consider myself fortunate to have worked closely with Shawn over the years. With the support of our Chiefs and direction and encouragement from Shawn we have managed to develop one of the most outstanding First Nation health departments in the country.

***It warms my heart
to witness our youth
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Shawn was dedicated to Wabun Tribal Council and all of our staff benefited by his knowledge and experience. He always afforded us a great measure of trust and support with the various projects and initiatives we developed for the betterment of health services for Wabun First Nation members. We will miss him and wish him well with his new position. Thankfully, the transfer of management has been seamless with Jason Batise taking over as the Executive Director. Jason is up to speed and knowledgeable of all operations at Wabun Tribal Council. I am very impressed how smooth the transition has been and with Jason's performance. He is a great team leader and is mo-

tivating our staff to do their very best through his comments of encouragement and appreciation.

In this issue of Wabun Sun you will also see a story on our 10th Anniversary Wabun Youth Gathering. This year we held the event at a different venue and we were happy to have the opportunity to participate and observe the gathering. Our Wabun youth always provide me with good feedback and input and it warms my heart to witness them over the years as they develop from children to teens and then adults.

We are also going to be making changes in how we stage the Wabun Youth Gathering for 2017 and this will start with a winter event in February for our senior participants. We are making this change as an effort to make the event more accessible for our senior youth who are very busy in the summer and often not available. Our Wabun Gathering for the junior youth will take place as usual in the summer. This year we were very grateful as always to our Chiefs and Executive management for support and we want to acknowledge the sponsorship support we received from Gold Corp and Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services. In moving forward with the Wabun Youth Gathering we are going to keep developing content that assists our young people in developing all types of survival skills on the land and in their lives. We realize how difficult life is for our young people at times and we are very concerned with the high rate of suicide and attempted suicide by First Nation youth right across the country.

We will be making increased efforts to address issues that involve suicide in terms of bullying and drug and alcohol abuse awareness. Our world has changed so much in the

**Jean
Lemieux**
Health
Director



past couple of decades with the arrival of the internet and social media. We need to provide our people and in particular our youth in terms of navigating online social media and a healthy way to participate and use this technology.

***Our Wabun Youth
are getting assistance
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Thanks to the efforts of Faye Naveau our Community Crisis Support Worker and her facilitators as well as event chaperones, our Wabun Youth are getting some assistance in making their lives better with skills and knowledge they develop in our various workshops. I also want to thank Julie McKay for organizing our most recent Health Care Workers retreat and our Elders Gathering.

To make sure that our Wabun First Nations are working together in terms of health and wellness we are committed to a holistic connected approach to honouring and assisting our community members through our Elders gathering, Men's and Women's Wellness workshops and staff development. This strategy provides us with the opportunity to involve everyone in our communities with events that provide information, skills, encouragement and care so that our Elders, parents, staff and young people are developing in concert.

Front Cover

The front cover features a night time photo by Christine McKay, Mattagami First Nation, taken at Horwood Lake Lodge during the Annual Wabun Youth Gathering west of Timmins. The event was held July 11 to 22, 2016 for Wabun youth between the ages of 8 to 18.

photo courtesy of: Christine McKay, Mattagami First Nation

Shawn Batise Dedicated More Than 25 Years To Wabun

After more than a quarter century in serving Wabun Tribal Council as Executive Director, Shawn Batise has moved to the position of Ontario Provincial Assistant Deputy Minister for the Negotiations and Reconciliation Division at the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.



SHAWN BATISE HAS BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT IN NEGOTIATING AGREEMENTS FOR WABUN OVER THE YEARS. IN OCTOBER 2016, TAHOE RESOURCES SIGNED AN IBA WITH WABUN FIRST NATIONS. FROM L-R: CHIEF ALEX 'SONNY' BATISSE, MATACHEWAN FN; CHIEF MURRAY RAY, FLYING POST FN; JASON BATISE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL; SHAWN BATISE, CURRENTLY WITH MINISTRY OF INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION AND FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WABUN AND CHIEF WALTER NAVEAU, MATTAGAMI FN.

He started his new role in August at 160 Bloor Street East in Toronto.

"This was the most important and difficult decision I have ever had to make in terms of career and family because it not only meant leaving a position that I enjoyed so much for so many years for a new challenge but it also meant relocation to Toronto. As a member of Matachewan First Nation my roots run very deep in the fabric that makes up Wabun Tribal Council. My life has been all about family, friends and the satisfaction I have enjoyed in assisting our Wabun communities develop in terms of infrastructure, health services, housing, education, training and employment opportunities," commented Batise.

He enjoyed the support and direction of the Wabun Chiefs and Elders over the years in meeting the challenge of fulfilling the goal of the founding Chiefs to make life better for all Wabun First Nations through strength in numbers. In his new position with the Ontario government Batise will largely be involved in overseeing all land claims negotiations and settlements in the province of Ontario.

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation includes promoting collaboration and coordination across ministries on Indigenous policy and programs in partnership with First Nations, Métis and Inuit. The ministry sets priorities for and tracks the progress of Ontario's Indigenous agenda. It also enhances government awareness of Indigenous people, issues and best practices for consulting and engaging with Indigenous people. The Ministry also works with the federal government to find ways to make the most of federal funding and helps Indigenous people access Ontario government programs, services and information. In addition the ministry reforms the land claims process to help address historical grievances and encourages diversity and inclusion, especially representation of Indigenous people, in the Ontario Public Service.

The Minister responsible for the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation is David Zimmer and the Deputy Minister is Deborah Richardson.

Batise has a busy schedule that includes many files and the management

of 50 staff.

"I am happy to report that the political staff and bureaucrats I am working with are very passionate about First Nation rights and issues. They are dedicated and hard working which makes my work rewarding and enjoyable," commented Batise.

He worked with many Wabun Chiefs over the years and was always proud of the solidarity shown among the leadership over the years.

"We are sad to lose Shawn and all of his expertise but we also realize that as a First Nation person he is going to be representing all of us with his move to the Ontario government. He has been negotiating all kinds of agreements over the years and understands the relationship among First Nations, governments both Federal and Provincial and resource based developers. He along with the team at Wabun and staff in our Wabun First Nations have propelled us to a high level of competence and sophistication in negotiating good agreements," said Chief Walter Naveau of Mattagami First Nation.

Batise, is well known provincially, nationally and even internationally for his work in negotiating agreements and assisting the Wabun Chiefs and council over the years to develop well run and serviced First Nations.

"I want to thank our Wabun Chiefs from over the years for their support and encouragement in allowing myself and the Wabun staff to move forward on so many different levels of development for our Wabun First Nations. I have gained so much experience in terms of management and negotiation skills. Over the years I have networked and connected with key political First Nation and non-Native leaders, stakeholders, resource development executives and various organizations right across the country. I am grateful to Wabun Tribal Council for providing me so many opportunities to learn and grow over the years," explained Batise.

Batise, with the direction from Wabun Chiefs and Elders, has been a major force in developing Wabun Tri-

bal Council over the years. He assisted Health Services department in making 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. Again, he was in charge when 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. Also in 1996, the Council through Batise's efforts 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 (Chiefs).

Another one of his accomplishments involved the 1998 Wabun purchase of 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. As a means to administer its own employment and training programs, Batise initiated the development of 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. Batise was also instrumental in bringing Flying Post First Nation into the Wabun family of First Nations in 2007. Today Wabun Tribal Council includes: Matachewan FN, Mattagami FN, Brunswick House FN, Beaverhouse FN, Chapleau Ojibwe FN and Flying Post FN.

In the past decade Batise with Wabun Chiefs and Wabun management has developed the expertise and skill to identify and enter into major resource development agreements with a large number of resource developers and government. Many of these agreements have resulted in training, employment, business opportunities and revenue sharing for the Wabun First Nations.

As a result of his leadership in terms of negotiating good agreements for Aboriginal communities over the years, Batise has been invited to speak on these successes in Canada, the United States and South America.

Imerys Talc Signs IBA

Flying Post First Nation set a new milestone for Wabun First Nations when community leaders signed an Impact and Benefits Agreement (IBA) with Imerys Talc in April 2016. The agreement is the first IBA signing for a Wabun First Nation concerning a previous existing mining project. Imerys Talc operates a talc mine near Foleyet which has been in production for decades. Talc is a natural mineral which is used in a variety of manufacturing processes. To date all Wabun First Nations have only been signing agreements with newly developing projects.

"This was an important agreement for our community and for our Wabun communities. This agreement reaffirms what our ancestors agreed to when our people signed the original treaties with the government of Canada. It was an agreement to have a share in the development of our lands and resources. We are grateful to Wabun for their assistance and thankful to the company officials who made this such a positive agreement for everyone involved," said Chief Murray Ray, Flying Post FN.

The negotiations were led by Wabun executives Shawn Batise and Jason Batise, as well as Chief Ray and Flying Post FN representatives. Shawn Batise has since moved from the Wabun Executive Director position to the post of Ontario Provincial Assistant Deputy Minister for the Negotiations and Reconciliation Division at the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. Jason Batise has now taken on the role of Wabun Executive Director but is also continuing his previous duties as Wabun's Economic Development and Technical Services Advisor.

"This was a significant step forward for our First Nations. Our staff at Wabun worked hard on this while at the same time, it would not have been possible to move forward without the

positive relationship Flying Post built with the company. We are thankful to the many representatives at Imerys Talc for their participation and to our Wabun Chiefs for their support. Of course as with any development, our Flying Post members are always our number one reason for entering into any agreement," said Jason Batise.

The negotiations for this agreement took two years to complete. The new IBA will provide several benefits for Flying Post First Nation including opportunities in employment and business, as well as environmental management. In addition, the agreement also provides some revenue sharing with the First Nation.

"These agreements are important for us as they allow our people to have a say in the development that happens on our lands. It also sets an example for other resource developers already operating on our lands," explained Chief Ray.

He added that as his community continues to develop positive relationships with resources development companies, his people are gaining more and more opportunities for growth and development. His council is working towards building on these successes with the aim of setting a healthy foundation for future generations. Flying Post FN leadership is encouraging and supporting their young people to achieve higher levels of learning and receive training so that they are prepared for opportunities that arise.

"We are putting a priority on education so that we can have a new generation of people who can become our future leaders and business professionals. This will allow our First Nation to become a self sufficient community that is not reliant on government support. This independence will allow us to become masters of our own destiny," said Chief Ray.



CHIEF MURRAY RAY HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE SIGNING OF MANY AGREEMENTS. HERE WE SEE THE SIGNING OF AN IMPACT AND BENEFIT AGREEMENT (IBA) WITH TAHOE RESOURCES. FROM L-R: CHIEF RAY, FLYING POST FN; CHIEF WALTER NAVEAU, MATTAGAMI FN; CHIEF ALEX 'SONNY' BATISSE, MATACHEWAN FN AND SHARON PLOURDE, REPRESENTATIVE FOR WAHGOSHIG FN.

10th Annual Wabun Youth



WABUN YOUTH GATHERING JUNIOR WEEK PARTICIPANTS. THE JUNIOR WEEK RAN FROM JULY 11 TO 15, 2016.

The Wabun Youth Gathering celebrated its 10th year in the wilderness lake side resort setting of Horwood Lake Lodge, west of Timmins, July 11 to 22, 2016. More than 60 Wabun youth attended the event which was sponsored by Wabun Tribal Council Health Services based in Timmins. The gathering also had sponsorship support from Gold Corp Inc and Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services. The event was coordinated by Faye Naveau, Regional Crisis Coordinator for Wabun Health Services.

Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) Deputy Grand Chief Derek Fox, attended the event to speak to youth in support of the annual gathering. Wabun leaders Chief Walter Naveau of Mattagami FN and Chief Alex 'Sonny' Batisse of Matachewan FN also drove to the semi remote event to make presentations to the youth. Chief Marcia Brown-Martel of Beaverhouse FN

spent a week with Wabun Youth as an Elder, chaperone and mentor.

The event was divided into two parts. The first week from July 11 to 15 was held for junior youth aged from eight to 12 and the second week from July 18 to 22 was for senior youth aged 13 to 18. The two week event featured a series of workshops and teachings for both groups on traditional knowledge and culture by facilitator, Ron Kanutski, a Social Worker and Cultural Teacher from Lake Helen First Nation in northwestern Ontario. He is also well known as a stand up comedian and performer featured in events throughout Canada and the United States. His group sessions included play activities for younger individuals and more in depth teaching sessions for older youth.

"One of the most important lessons I learned from my Elders is that we should spend more time playing and

having fun with our youth. In all my lessons, I include plenty of laughter and joy because not only is it more fun to learn that way, it is more memorable for those I teach," said Kanutski.

The Timmins Fur Council held special activities for both groups including a presentation on trapping culture and animal hides. Organized games and sporting activities were provided by Pro Sports Management of Timmins on two occasions. During the first week, Tim Simpson of Pro Sports Management led junior youth in bubble soccer and for the senior youth in the second week, archery tag was organized. Although both activities were hampered by rain showers, participants still managed to enjoy these activities. On the last evening of each week before participants left to go home, a social gathering was managed by music DJs, Peter Lawryniw and Kevin Martel of DJTAZ of Timmins.

Jacy Jolivet, a 13 year old member of Brunswick House FN, who has attended the annual event for several years and graduated from the junior camp to the senior camp this year, commented that the gathering has become a highlight of his summer.

"I had lots of fun this year as we got to go out on the water, to go fishing and swimming. I also get to see people I got to know from other communities over the years and that is always rewarding. I always learn something new here and it helps me to have a better life," said Jolivet.

Opening and closing prayers were led by Elders Vina Hendrix, of Matachewan FN during the first week and Chief Brown-Martel for the second week.



L-R: FAYE NAVEAU, ELDER VINA HENDRIX, JEAN LEMIEUX, HEALTH DIRECTOR



QUINTON BATISE, MATACHEWAN FN

Gathering Held July 2016

"We are happy with staging our event at Horwood Lake Lodge. There were very few distractions here in the middle of this beautiful wilderness setting with eagles, loons and all types of wildlife nearby. The youth had more time to spend learning, playing and getting to know each other. I am so thankful for the support of our Wabun Chiefs, Wabun Executive, our Health Director Jean Lemieux and chaperones for making sure our young people are being helped along a good trail so that they will have better lives," said Faye Naveau.

Wabun Health Director Jean Lemieux, congratulated Wabun Youth for making the tenth annual gathering a reality and spoke to them about the special significance of the event for Wabun Tribal Council.

"This event was made possible through the vision and dream of our Elder Thomas Saunders of Brunswick House First Nation. Although he passed on before this dream could be made a reality, it was always his wish to see our people, especially our youth come together in a gathering such as this. This was also made possible by the support of our Wabun Chiefs and all the workers that have supported this event for the past ten years. It has made a difference in the lives of our youth

and I am hopeful that the dream of Elder Saunders will continue on into the future," said Lemieux.

Horwood Lake Lodge owners Mike and Jaana Brazeau along with their staff provided safe, modern and caring accommodations for the Wabun youth. Fishing and pontoon boats were made available to allow youth to experience fishing and trips out onto the expansive wilderness lake for the senior event

only, due to weather conditions. Horwood Lake Lodge provided a fishing tackle kit and rod for each youth.

"It was great to have the Wabun youth here at our lodge. I've always emphasized that we not only cater to our older fishing and hunting crowd but also must foster a new generation of fishermen and women that can grow to enjoy our northern wilderness," said Mike Brazeau.



WABUN YOUTH GATHERING SENIOR WEEK PARTICIPANTS. SENIOR WEEK RAN FROM JULY 18 TO 22, 2016.

**For more information visit:
www.wabunyouthgathering.com**

Julie St Denis Joins Wabun Health

Julie St. Denis is the featured Wabun Health staff member for this edition of the Wabun Sun. She is the Non-Wabun Health Clerk at the tribal council's main office in Timmins. St. Denis started her position on July 25, 2016.

"So far this has been a great experience for me. I enjoy working directly with our clients on their health care needs and in helping them access the services they need. I especially enjoy being able to work closely with our First Nation Elders," said St. Denis.

The Non-Wabun Health Clerk is responsible for working with First Nation clients who are not members of a Wabun First Nation. This assistance includes helping clients

with medical out of town appointments or assisting them with the reimbursement process from the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program.

St. Denis a 26 year old member of Brunswick House First Nation, brings plenty of personable skills to her position through her experience in the hospitality field.

"The staff here have been really helpful in getting me acquainted with my new role. I am looking forward to learning more about the health care services so that I can develop improved skills to help our people. It makes me feel good to know that the work I am doing is helping to create a healthier community for First Nation people,"

said St. Denis.

She and her spouse Jamie have two children, seven month old Logan and three year old Noah.

St. Denis values her time with her family and is dedicated to her children. She has recently become a swim mom and takes her two boys for swim lessons once a week. As family, they also take part in traditional activities including hunting, fishing and camping.

"I am very grateful to all the health staff here for making me feel comfortable in my new position and for all their help. Everyone here at Wabun has been very welcoming and the health care staff and executive have been very supportive and encouraging," said St. Denis.

Four First Nations Sign IBA With Tahoe Resources

The Wabun Tribal Council First Nations (FN) of Matachewan, Mattagami and Flying Post joined with Wahgoshig FN to sign an Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) with Tahoe Resources, October 27, 2016.

The signing ceremony, which took place in Timmins at Cedar Meadows Resort is the result of close to six years of negotiations that was started with Lakeshore Gold which was merged into Tahoe in April 2016.

Chief Walter Naveau, of Mattagami FN; Chief Murray Ray, of Flying Post FN and Chief Alex 'Sonny' Batisse, of Matachewan FN spoke to those in attendance about the importance of following through on negotiations with the result of an IBA.

They thanked their members and councils for the guidance and support in moving ahead with negotiations.

They also expressed gratitude to Wabun Tribal Council former Executive Director Shawn Batise as well as Jason Batise, the current Executive Director and their staff for leading the negotiations over the years.

In addition, Sharon Plourde of Wahgoshig First Nation, who appeared on behalf of Chief Joel Bear Babin, expressed her congratulations and thanks for achieving the IBA.

"I am here to today to join in with others to sign this agreement for the benefit of the future for our children and communities. I do this with the hope that our work together will give our future generations prosperity and that they will have what the rest of Canada enjoys in regards to employment, education and a good life," commented Chief Walter Naveau.

Ron Clayton, President and Chief Executive Officer and Director of Tahoe Resources echoed the positive

words of the Chiefs.

"We believe the agreement is an achievement mounted on the spirit of cooperation and mutual respect. It will involve long term benefits, business opportunities, employment and training as well as education for the First Nations," Clayton explained

the hard work we had done over the years to arrive at this agreement. This agreement is a great indication of what reconciliation can and should be all about," commented Shawn Batise.

Mayor Steve Black explained that he was happy with the good relationship the city of Timmins has developed with First Nations and expressed his gratitude to the Chiefs and their community members for their efforts in working with the city.

He also commended Tahoe for their continued development in the local mining scene and for working well with the city.

Robert Calhoun, Regional Supervisor, Ministry of Northern Development and Mines passed on comments from Provincial Minister Michael Gravelle commending all those who were instrumental in helping the agreement come to fruition.

Jason Batise also added his voice of thanks to all of the members of the

Wabun First Nations that supported the negotiations for this agreement over the years as well as the Wabun staff.

Tom Laughren, Director of Corporate and Social Responsibility for Tahoe Resources served as Master of Ceremonies and Elder Morris Naveau of Mattagami FN contributed the opening and closing prayers.

The Thunder Creek Drum group of Timmins performed at the event. They included: Nathan Naveau, Grayson Sutherland, Mark Carpenter, Chad McKenzie, April Atlookan and Shaylan Boudreau.



AN IMPACT AND BENEFIT AGREEMENT (IBA) WAS SIGNED BY FIRST NATIONS AND TAHOE RESOURCES IN TIMMINS ON OCTOBER 27. PICTURED IN BACK ROW L-R: CHIEF MURRAY RAY, FLYING POST FN; CHIEF ALEX 'SONNY' BATISSE, MATACHEWAN FN, RON CLAYTON, TAHOE RESOURCES; KEN PETERSON, CONSULTANT; CHIEF WALTER NAVEAU, MATTAGAMI FN AND SHARON PLOURDE, WAHGOSHIG FN. SEATED IN FRONT L-R ARE: SHAWN BATISE, MINISTRY OF INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION AND JASON BATISE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL.

Shawn Batise, currently the Ontario Provincial Assistant Deputy Minister for the Negotiations and Reconciliation Division at the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation had worked on negotiating the agreement over the years with the Chiefs involved.

"I want to thank Tahoe Resources for improving this agreement. I think this is one of the better agreements we have signed over the years and our First Nations can be proud of what they have achieved here today. I am grateful to be invited back here to speak to you today to celebrate all of

Borden Gold Project Developing

Wabun Tribal Council is working with the First Nations of Brunswick House, Chapleau Ojibwe and Chapleau Cree in Impact and Benefits Agreement negotiations with Gold Corp on the development of the company's Borden Gold Project.

Wabun is representing its two member First Nations of Brunswick House and Chapleau Ojibwe while also working closely with Chapleau Cree First Nation, which is part of the Mushkegowuk Council. This Advanced Exploration stage project is being based six kilometres from Brunswick House First Nation next to Highway 101 and Borden Lake.



Chief Kevin Tangie,
Brunswick
House First
Nation

"We are hopeful that we can all take part in a positive future for this project with the company. We are also happy to be working with two other First Nations and as well to access the expertise and knowledge of Wabun Tribal Council. In working together we are able to have a stronger voice in creating benefits for our people and at the same time provides us with the ability to better protect our environment," commented Chief Kevin Tangie, Brunswick House FN.

The negotiations concern the ongoing and future development of the company's project.

The three communities are actively involved in consultations, planning and information sharing concerning current work and planned development for the future.

"The Borden Gold Project is a major development for our communities in the Chapleau area. We are negotiating how our First Nations can benefit from this project including economic and employment opportunities. However we are also concerned about the environmental impacts of this project," said Jason Batise, Executive Director of Wabun Tribal Council.

The negotiations are a continuation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which was signed between the three First Nations and Probe Mines Limited in 2011.

Probe Mines was the original de-

veloper of the Borden Gold Project. Probe Mines was then acquired by Gold Corp in March 2015.

To better coordinate the many activities, communications and development of the Borden Gold Project, Wabun has hired Cheryl Naveau as the Borden Gold First Nation Coordinator. She is responsible for maintaining communications with the company, the communities and First Nation representatives on the ongoing development of the project.

Currently, Naveau is working with the communities in creating training opportunities in environmental related positions as well as mining related skills and trades in preparation for any future possibilities. She explained that one of the foremost early developments has been the training and employment of three Environmental Monitors including Tanya Saunders, Brunswick House FN; Joe Picody, Chapleau Ojibwe FN and Dustin Van Horne, Chapleau Cree FN. Their training and participation will result in certification for them.

"There is work being done now that has provided some employment but our main interest is to have our people prepared as the project hopefully expands. We are encouraging our members to take on education opportunities as well

as training programs so that they can take advantage of employment opportunities if they become available in the future," said Chief Tangie.

He added that Gold Corp has helped to create a positive relationship with the communities. Regular meetings are held between community leaders and company representatives and First Nation members are also provided frequent opportunity to give their input on the project.

Chief Tangie explained that one of the main concerns for Brunswick House FN involves environmental monitoring as the project is taking place close to the community and Borden Lake which is the source of the First Nation's water intake.

"Our community is looking forward to economic opportunities with all kinds of good news if the exploration proves successful however, we are also making sure our community members are well informed and have a voice in any development that occurs. We believe there is a balance in terms of development and protecting our environment. It is a busy and an exciting time for our people and we are hopeful that we can build on this positive and mutually beneficial relationship with Gold Corp and their Borden Gold Project," said Chief Tangie.



WABUN ELDERS GATHERING, WHICH DREW 50 ELDERS FROM WABUN FIRST NATIONS, WAS HELD IN OCTOBER 2016 IN TIMMINS AND FEATURED RON KANUTSKI AS WORKSHOP FACILITATOR. THE SUCCESSFUL EVENT WAS COORDINATED BY JULIE MCKAY, WABUN HEALTH. HERE WE SEE MATTAGAMI FN ELDERS (L-R) STEVEN NAVEAU, MIKE NAVEAU AND RICHARD NAVEAU.

Mens & Womens Gathering Held In Timmins

Wabun Health Services hosted a three-day Men's and Women's Gathering at the Ramada Inn in Timmins from October 24 to 27, 2016.

The gathering has been held regularly every year to compliment other Wabun events that take place during the year while also providing social and community support and training for Wabun First Nation members. Wabun Health also hosts an annual Wabun Youth Gathering and the Wabun Elders Gathering.



FACILITATORS RON KANUTSKI AND KAREN SLOMKE

"All our gatherings are important for our people as it is an opportunity to help us heal but also to connect with others in the Wabun area. It felt good to see individuals from our Wabun communities maintaining old friendships and also making new connections," said organizer Faye Naveau, Regional Crisis Coordinator for Wabun Health Services.

Although the event began on Monday, actual workshops and presentations took place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The daily events included educational workshops, creative activities, sharing circles and presentations. Elder Lawrence Naveau, Mattagami FN and Chief Marcia Brown-Martel, Beaverhouse FN led in daily ceremonies, drumming and singing.

The gathering was facilitated by Ron Kanutski, a social worker, professional comedian and cultural teacher from Lake Helen First Nation in northwestern Ontario. He staged group sessions to provide education and training to the participants on drug abuse, generational trauma and training in approaches to healing.

"We were here to provide training but also to let everyone know, especially the participants, that services and support is available to our First Nation people on an ongoing basis. I could feel that everyone at this event was very in-

vested in what was offered and we were more than happy to help them on their healing journey," said Kanutski.

He is involved with the Community Wellness Development Team (CWDT), under Dilico Anishinabek Family Care. This program was jointly developed by the federal and provincial governments along with the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) to assist First Nation communities in creating support programs to deal with opiate drug addictions.

Kanutski was joined by Karen Slomke, a registered social worker and social service provider with over 20 years of experience in the social services and counselling fields.

"I was very impressed by the participation at this event. We are here to educate and our hope is that we can give Wabun members a starting point to move from and begin their path to positive healing," said Slomke.

She works with trauma related therapies and over the past two years has specialized in what is known as Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy, which is used as a treatment for individuals living with trauma related issues. One main facet of this treatment is the use of bilateral motion or side to side motion of the body to aid in the healing process. Kanutski explained that much of this new research had a lot in common with many traditional practices in Native culture.

"Our ancestors had been applying these therapies long before and it is something that can help our people now"

- Ron Kanutski

"The use of dance or movement to a drumbeat is something that our people have used for thousands of years. We wanted to blend this cultural practice to new research in EMDR therapy to help First Nation people in dealing with historical or generational trauma. It feels good to know that our ancestors had been applying these therapies long before and it is something that can help our people now," said Kanutski.

A presentation was also provided by Lynn Pell, a herbalist and aroma therapist from Timmins. Pell provided an educational presentation on aroma therapy and meditation. She also joined with Faye Naveau in providing participants with moose hide pins as part of a national Aboriginal campaign in support of stopping violence against women and children.



WABUN HEALTH FEATURED A MENS AND WOMENS GATHERING AT THE RAMANDA INN IN TIMMINS OCTOBER 24 TO 27, 2016.

Cheryl Naveau Coordinating Borden Gold Project

Cheryl Naveau is the Borden Gold First Nations Coordinator for Wabun Tribal Council. She has been performing in this position since September of 2015. Her duties centre around the Borden Gold Project, which is being developed by Gold Corp six kilometres from Brunswick House First Nation on Borden Lake. Her work load has been broad and intensive as her main role is to secure employment and training opportunities and make sure that certain aspects of the project is developing on time. She is also involved in consulting and updating the participating First Nations of Brunswick House, Chapleau Ojibway and Chapleau Cree and maintaining communications with Gold Corp representatives.



Cheryl Naveau,
Borden Gold
First Nations
Coordinator

"I have had the opportunity to work with so many gifted people and to learn from them"
- Cheryl Naveau

"I am really enjoying this challenge and working with three very experienced and talented Chiefs like Anita Stephens, Kevin Tangie and Keith Corston. The relationship among the Chiefs, council members, community members and Gold Corp's people is very positive and that makes any future development full of promise," explained Naveau.

She has been coordinating the rela-

tionship among all of the key stakeholders in the advanced exploration development. Naveau has helped to create some employment opportunities and a plan is in place that facilitates preparation for First Nation members in terms of further employment and training as development continues. She is part of the team negotiating an Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) with representation from the leadership of the First Nations, Wabun Tribal Council and Gold Corp Management. A Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) was initially signed with Probe Mines, the previous owners of the property, in 2011. This MOU was then transferred to Gold Corp when it acquired the Borden Gold Project in 2015.

"I think one of the things so far that I am most satisfied with is the fact that we have three of our First Nation members working as Environmental Monitors on the project. Tanya Saunders, Brunswick House FN, Joe Picody, Chapleau Ojibway FN and Dustin Van Horne of Chapleau Cree FN are working and training for certification. I am also very happy that we are proceeding

with cross cultural training for everyone involved in the developing project as that helps us all to foster better relationships," commented Naveau.

She brings a lot of experience to her position as she had been employed in the past with Trelawney Mining and also IAMGold in the area of Aboriginal Community Relations. As a member of Mattagami First Nation, Naveau has an in depth knowledge of Native issues, culture and tradition. She started her working life 25 years ago with Wabun Tribal Council as a Health Clerk. Over the years she has received much training in many areas of study and has enjoyed developing her current career path.

"Wabun Tribal Council and our Wabun First Nations have been very good to me over the years. I have had the opportunity to work with so many gifted people and to learn from them. Right now I am living part of the time in Brunswick House First Nation and I am enjoying the fact that I can spend a lot of quality time with our Elders there. I am also so grateful for all the guidance and care my mom Mabel and my uncle Morris Naveau have provided me over the years," commented Naveau.

Although her husband Dan passed away two years ago, Cheryl Naveau still likes to take time to be on the land and dedicates as much time as possible involving Elders in decision making and in honouring them in their golden years. She is currently working with people from Wabun to organize a future Elders symposium.

First Nation Women In Mining



FIRST NATION WOMEN IN MINING FROM MATACHEWAN FN, FLYING POST FN, MATTAGAMI FN AND WAHGOSHIG FN PARTICIPATED IN MINING ESSENTIALS FOR WOMEN PROGRAM IN THE SPRING OF 2016. THE PROGRAM WAS DONE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GOLD CORP, TAHOE MINES (LAKE SHORE GOLD), NORTHERN COLLEGE, ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS (AFN) AND THE NATIVE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION WITH COORDINATION BY DENYSE NADON. HERE WE SEE SHAWN BATISE, FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL WITH THE FIRST NATION WOMEN PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS DURING HIS ATTENDANCE AS A GUEST SPEAKER.

Mining Expo Run In Mattagami FN

A Mining Expo was held in Mattagami First Nation, November 2, 2016 in conjunction with the community's regular quarterly open-house. The exposition was staged to provide on

site representatives from mining companies involved in agreements with the First Nation to update and inform community members on developments.

"The Mattagami Mining Expo

provided us with an excellent opportunity to meet the community and build relationships that go beyond just an MOU. As an exploration company, this is probably one of the most important events we have attended this year," explained Dave Palmer, CEO of Probe Metals.

Fun filled scavenger hunts were featured for children and adults and the event concluded with a feast.

The event, which drew over 100 people was organized by James Naveau, Lands and Resources Coordinator and Stephanie LaBelle, Mineral Development Advisor for Wabun Tribal Council.

"Mattagami First Nation wishes to acknowledge the participation of all the companies that came out and those that helped sponsor the event. A special thank you to Stephanie for all of her hard work. The engagement and enthusiasm of the community members and students at the Mary Jane Naveau Public School made the event even more special. Darlene Naveau and her staff prepared a great feast that was enjoyed by all," commented James Naveau.



A MINING EXPO WAS HELD IN MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION ON NOVEMBER 2, 2016. PICTURED ARE LOCAL FIRST NATION YOUTH WHO ATTENDED THE EVENT.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY STEPHANIE LABELLE

Health Care Workers Retreat

The Wabun Health Care Workers Retreat was held in Timmins at Cedar Meadows Resort, October 11 and 12, 2016. The two day event was organized by Julie McKay, Assistant Health Director.

"It was an opportunity for our health care workers to come together to share what they are doing in their First Nations and to learn new information beneficial to themselves and their clients," said McKay.

Workshops and activity sessions were provided by Dr. Luc Lemire, a Chiropractor from Timmins, who provided information on injury prevention on the job and treatment options. Cindy Giguere, Community Health

Nurse for Matachewan First Nation provided information on Bowen Therapy, a hands-on physical treatment involving a gentle healing pressure applied to affected muscles, tendons, fascia and nerves. Sylvie Dureau of Halotherapy Salt & Spa in Timmins presented information on Halotherapy, the use of salt vapour to treat respiratory ailments, skin irritations and combat mental lethargy.

"I want to congratulate Julie McKay for organizing such a well run and informative retreat. Our Health Care workers benefit greatly in having the opportunity to get together and to learn new information," commented Jean Lemieux, Wabun Health Director.



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