



Wabun Sun

Issue #4

Published by Wabun Tribal Council

Volume 1

Mattagami First Nation Forestry Initiatives

MATTAGAMI FN, ONT. - The people of Mattagami First Nation are being trained in many aspects of forest harvesting in preparation for forestry initiatives that will provide employment. Chad Boissoneau, Forestry Technician for Mattagami FN is one of the driving forces behind developing forestry initiatives for the community.

"Mattagami First Nation has been left out of the loop when it comes to forest harvesting. We have been preparing to become involved in forestry initiatives for some time now. As a matter of fact we are involved in the Forest Management Planning and we are working to negotiate opportunities in forest harvesting for the Mattagami FN with forest harvesting companies," said Boissoneau.

As part of an ongoing lobbying effort, Mattagami FN is represented in a planning committee involved with the Shining Tree Forest Incorporated and Mallette Forest Incorporated.

"We are involved with the forest management planning and with these companies with the idea of becoming a self sufficient partner in forest harvesting so that we can provide economic opportunities for our First Nation people and an equal chance to work with the forest harvesting industry," said Boissoneau.

He added that he also sits as a representative for Wabun Tribal Council on the National Aboriginal Forestry Association (NAFA). He gained a background in forest initiatives by taking a three year distant education program through Sault Ste. Marie College. In addition, he previously owned and operated his own Forest Firefighting company and was involved with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) in this area. Currently, he is also acting as coordinator for four students who are taking the Aboriginal Resource Technician program from Sault Ste. Marie College.

Chief Joyce Luke and her First Nation Council as well as previous Chiefs and Councils have been at the fore front in providing leadership and direction in terms of the goal to developing forest harvesting opportunities for Mattagami FN.

To date there has been much training in forest harvesting in the community. The first training program took place in the fall of 1996.

This was a basic training program instructed by Boissoneau to identify the various types of forest harvesting techniques. The second training program involved training for ten Mattagami FN people as Heavy Equipment Operators.

"This program gave our First Nation people training and experience on road building and maintenance as well as the opportunity to get an AZ license. I want to mention that both programs were funded by Mamo-Wichi-Hetiwin Employment & Training," said Boissoneau.

A third training program, for mechanical operators is being planned which involves training in the operation of feller bunchers, delimiting machinery and grapple and skidding techniques, explained Boissoneau. He added that the community will be turning to Mamo-Wichi-Hetiwin once again for funding.

"It has been an uphill battle, but First Nation people are making progress in negotiating involvement



MATTAGAMI FN GRADUATES from the Heavy Equipment Operators Course which also included Class AZ Driver training in 1998. Front row L-R are: Christopher Constant, Armond Groulx, Valarie Naveau and Rick Hyde, Trainer. Back row, from L-R are: Ray Laundry, Matachewan FN, Trainer; Wallace Naveau, Lawrence Naveau, James Naveau, Rodney McKay, Robert Naveau, Ivan McKay and Leonard Naveau Jr.

in forest harvesting with the MNR and forestry companies. By law First Nation people have rights to share in the economic benefits of forest harvesting. Under terms and conditions 77 of the Legislation of Sustainable Forestry Licenses, forestry companies and the MNR are obligated to provide to some extent economic opportunities to First Nations within their management units," said Boissoneau.

He also acknowledged that many First Nation people are concerned about forest harvesting. He stressed that before any initiatives are developed it is imperative to consider traditional territories and traditional values.



Chad Boissoneau

Deadline For Wabun Scholarship Fund Extended

TIMMINS, Ont. - Wabun First Nation students have another chance to apply for cash awards and more through the Wabun Scholarship fund. Shawn Batise, Executive Director of Wabun Tribal Council recently extended the deadline for application to make sure that Wabun's students have every opportunity to apply for these funds. The new deadline for applications is February 29, 2000 an extension from the previous deadline of December 15, 1999.

The funds for the scholar-

ship are raised through sponsorship of the Annual Wabun Scholarship Fund golf tournament. The scholarships available include: Northern Telephone, \$1,000 with the possibility of a summer job with the company, First Nations Engineering \$500, and the Bank of Nova Scotia \$250.

All Wabun Education Counsellors are urged to encourage their students to apply for the scholarship. Any Wabun First Nation student can apply for the scholarship as long as they are enrolled in a secondary or

Wabun Members Win Awards At NADF

THUNDER BAY, Ont. - The Nishnawbe-Aski Development Fund (NADF) Business Awards, which were run in Thunder Bay on December 8, 1999, featured major presentations to two Wabun community members.

The Businessman Of The Year Award went to Alexander McWatch of Brunswick House First Nation. He was honoured for his excellence in the operation of a logging and trucking business. Lisa Vanbuskirk, also of Brunswick House First Nation, was recognized for her excellence with the presen-

tation of Youth Entrepreneur Of The Year.

LISA VANBUSKIRK

In May 1998, Vanbuskirk and her husband started a Grapple/Skidder business to cut and haul timber from forests near Brunswick House FN. Currently the operation is located at Mount Batten, a separate parcel of land that is owned by the First Nation and is located near the community. Through this business Vanbuskirk has also provided employment for Richard McWatch a First Nation employee through funding from Mamo-Wichi-Hetiwin Employment & Training.

"I am truly honoured and proud of the fact that I was recognized in NADF's youth category and to receive acknowledgment for my work. My husband and I had to do a lot of work to start this business as well as a lot of our own financing with the help of our parents," said Vanbuskirk.

She has also received ongoing assistance from the NADF in developing her business and in accessing funding.

"I am thankful for the help NADF has given me through the personal assistance of Kim Bird. Although this business was inde-

post secondary school.

The applicant must send a letter to Batise detailing a little about his or herself and also indicate why he or she deserves a scholarship. The applicant must also send a proof of academic performance or a recent transcript. Send all this information by February 29, 2000 to:

Shawn Batise, Executive Director, Wabun Tribal Council, 313 Railway Street, Timmins, Ontario P4N 2P4. Feel free to call Batise for more information at (705) 268-9066.

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NADF Awards Lisa Vanbuskirk and Alex McWatch

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pendently started, it is only recently that I began to realize the resources that are available for businesses like mine," said Vanbuskirk.

Vanbuskirk has plans for the future to expand her business to provide more employment for First Nation people in her community.

"Our communities have a great deal of unemployment and we have to find ways to try to develop employment opportunities. As I develop this business I plan to create and establish a small sawmill company that is similar to larger operations. This would not be a large operation but big enough to provide employment for several people," said Vanbuskirk.

Her father, Joseph Saunders, who served as Chief of Brunswick House FN several years ago, was of great help in providing assistance. Sadly, Chief Saunders passed away in March 1999.

"My father played a big role in helping me and my husband start up this business since he had a lot of experience as an independent contractor for many years. My family was of great support as well during the time my husband and I developed this business," said Vanbuskirk.

A member of Brunswick House FN, she has three children: Renae, 6; Erica, 5 and Nathan, one. She is married to Clark and at 28 years of age she is also a First Nation Council member for her community.

ALEX MCWATCH

This is the second time McWatch has won the NADF Businessman Of The Year Award. The first was in 1994 for recognition of his successful development and operation of gas service in Brunswick House First Nation.

"I am very thankful for being chosen for this award. This is the second time that I have received an award from NADF and I am happy for their recognition of my work. I am also thankful for Wasaya Airlines for sponsoring this award," said McWatch.

He started his logging and trucking operation in 1996. The business is responsible for the extraction of timber from forests to the roadside and the use of trucks to load and haul the timber to mills that deal with forest products. Over the years his operation has expanded and currently he owns three grapple skidders that haul timber from the forest, three log trucks, a chip truck and three pickups for use by employees to go to the work site and back. He employs four truck drivers, three skidder operators and a maintenance mechanic. His crew consists mostly of First Nation people.

"This has basically been an independent business where I have had to purchase my own equipment and vehicles over the years. I am proud of how the business has turned out. It is also successful due to the fact that my wife Helen mostly deals with the finances and basically acts as a secretary out of our home," said McWatch.

He has years of experience



ALEX McWATCH of Brunswick House First Nation received the Businessman Of The Year Award at the NADF Annual Business Awards which took place in Thunder Bay. Here we see Lily McWatch accepting the award on her brother's behalf.



ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR was awarded to Lisa Vanbuskirk of Brunswick House FN at the Nishnawbe-Aski Development Fund Business Awards on December 8, 1999. She is seen here after receiving her award.

in the trucking industry and worked for some time with several trucking companies. In addition to running a business, McWatch holds the position of First Nation Councillor in his community.

His main plans are to continue expanding his logging and trucking business as well as keep up his gas service.

"I want to continue operating this business hopefully until I retire. In the future I also want to keep expanding with further development," said McWatch.

He is a First Nation Ojibway person and a member of Brunswick House First Nation. At 41 years of age he is married to Helen and they

have two daughters Lauri-Ann, 21 and Vicki, 9. McWatch and his wife

are also grandparents to Harley, Steven and Hope.

Reflections

by Shawn Batise, Executive Director



I am very happy to remind everyone that this is the 10th Anniversary of the founding of Wabun Tribal Council. Wabun Tribal Council was actually formed April 1, 1990 and I started as Economic Development Officer in 1990 and then went on to become Executive Director in 1993.

It has been an incredible 10 years of development for all of us at Wabun, our staff, Wabun First Nation leadership and community members. I am very proud of the dedication and commitment by our First Nation Chiefs and councils over the years in leading us to the prestigious status of being one of the most progressive and effective councils in the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation and in fact one of the most outstanding in Canada.

When I think back over the years I remember many challenges and I am very satisfied at our record in overcoming these obstacles to put in place services and opportunities for our Wabun First Nation communities. Our success has come through the direct result of working as a team with strong direction from our Chiefs and First Nation Councils. I also want to commend our Wabun staff members over the

years for their strong performance and for providing their skills and expertise to our First Nations.

So much has been accomplished over the past decade. Of course, the most prominent highlight was the founding of Wabun Tribal Council with the gathering together of our First Nations to develop an organization dedicated to assisting our communities economically, socially and in terms of health care. Another important highlight was the development of the Health Transfer in 1993 from the federal government to our own Wabun Health Services. This was the first such initiative in Ontario and it came about due to the hard work of our Chiefs, First Nation councillors and a dedicated staff. In 1998 Wabun Tribal Council made a progressive and economically sound move with the purchase of our own building here on Railway Street in Timmins. These highlights are but a few of so many that have occurred over the past 10 years.

Now that we have entered the year 2000 I look forward to great strides for our First Nation communities. In recent years, with a change in government in Ontario and lack of commitment from the federal government to honour our treaties and Aboriginal rights, our challenges are greater than ever. Yet, I look to the future with hope as we continue to work together to make life better for each and every one of our First Nation community members. When it comes right down to it, that is why Wabun Tribal Council was created in the first place.

Wabun Chief

"This alliance is being developed as a non-political business association to deal with forestry and mining issues in our First Nation territories. The alliance will also work with companies in natural resource extraction to find ways for them to partner with First Nation communities," said Chief McKenzie.

One project that he and his First Nation Council have worked on over the past year is the construction of seven new homes. This was a major construction project that has been taking place since the summer. Wahgoshig FN is also considering providing a better water distribution system and the construction of ten more new homes. In addition, Chief McKenzie is hoping the planned SRS Line Microwave Radio Telephone System for the community will be in place soon.

"It has been a long and hard battle to finally get a proper telephone system in place for our community. Our community is semi remote and without an adequate phone

system in place we remain more or less isolated from the rest of the world. It causes great concern when we do not have proper access to emergency services for our community. Each one of our community members also need to have their individual connection to the rest of the world," said Chief McKenzie.

The Chief was previously a Wahgoshig First Nation Councillor. He has also been involved with the mining industry as an employee with Barrick Gold, near Wahgoshig FN and previous to that as a forestry worker for Abitibi Price.

Chief McKenzie is an Algonquin First Nation person and originally from Wahgoshig FN. He fluently speaks Algonquin as well as French and English. At 42 years of age he is married to Annie. They have four sons: Tony, 26; Jason, 25; Danny, 23; Paul Jr, 19 and a daughter Natalie, 22. His favourite past times include hunting and fishing and he also enjoys spending time at his bush camp.



WAHGOSHIG FN, Ont. - Chief Paul McKenzie of Wahgoshig First Nation is the Wabun Chief for this issue of Wabun Sun. Chief McKenzie has been leading his community since his election to office in February 1999. He will be serving his term for the next three years.

As well as providing leadership for his community, Chief McKenzie is also currently working as a committee member with several First Nations in the development of a First Nation Natural Resource Alliance. The First Nations involved are located within a vast area between Temiskaming, Quebec and the city of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

What's New With Wabun Health

TIMMINS, Ont. - As Wabun Health enters the new millennium there are many initiatives being planned in addition to the ongoing services to Wabun communities that have developed over the years.

As an update to the Community Health Nursing Programs there will be concerted efforts to focus on the Healthy Lifestyles Program.

Jennifer McLeod, Wabun Health Director believes that the promotion of the Healthy Lifestyles Program is very important in terms of preventing disease and generally improving the health of Wabun First Nation community members. Some of the initiatives for 2000 include Health Education Sessions dedicated to providing information on

nutrition and chronic diseases as well as other health related issues. Other components of the Healthy Lifestyles Program include diabetes prevention, encouraging weight loss, promoting exercise, encouraging smoking cessation and other healthy lifestyle choices that help in the prevention of the development of diabetes and other chronic dis-

ease.

"The great thing about the Healthy Lifestyles Program has to do with the fact that anyone of any age or health situation can participate in improving their personal health and in turn their quality of life," said McLeod.

She and Wabun's Community Health Nurses (CHNs) consider Health Education Sessions as a useful forum in the various Wabun First Nation communities to bring people together to learn, to ask questions and to share health issues in a supportive environment. Through these sessions there is an opportunity for participants to gain both mentally, spiritually and physically. She points to a very successful walking group that took place in Mattagami First Nation which focused on providing exercise and socialization for people in the community.

In addition, Wabun CHNs are planning to offer more structured clinics in the Wabun First

Nation communities. The plan is to provide specific types of health services geared to specific clinic days in the communities. For example, one certain day per week could be geared to prenatal health issues and another day during the week could be scheduled for blood pressure screening. McLeod and her nursing staff believe that by dedicating certain health services to specific scheduled days during the week, efficiency will be improved and people will begin to identify with what services are offered on a particular day.

There are also some new programs coming on board. Federal government funding is being earmarked for the Home and Community Care Program to enhance the current Long Term Care Program as well as additional funding for diabetes. Home support and home based services are currently being developed.

"Currently we are corre

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Dealing With The Flu

TIMMINS, Ont. - It is that time of year again when everyone has to deal with the flu. This year health professionals have grown concerned about the arrival of the latest virus strain known as the 'Sydney Strain'. Jennifer McLeod, Wabun Health Director explained that concern for this strain of flu is due to the fact that this is a serious virus that can be fatal for people who are elderly, very young or have compromised immune systems due to chronic diseases.

The flu or influenza is an acute respiratory infection caused by a variety of influenza viruses. Flu season occurs in the winter between the months of November and April. The flu was first discovered in the 1930's and since then has been classified into types 'A', 'B' and 'C', with 'A' being the most serious and prevalent. The flu is very contagious so schools and public places are a natural place for transmission.

McLeod explained that new strains of the virus are born in many parts of the world every year. The World Health Organization (WHO) keeps track of these new flu viruses and try to protect people by creat-

ing new antibodies, for flu shots, ahead of time.

"The flu shot that is administered every year protects people from being infected by the major flu viruses for that season. There are some misconceptions about this as people think they will get the flu through the flu shot. This myth may be due to the fact that sometimes people contract the flu during the two week period when their bodies are still vulnerable while developing the antibodies inside their systems after a flu shot. Some people also experience soreness and muscle ache at the site of the injection but this only lasts for a few days is not serious," said Therese McLellan, Program Coordinator, Communicable Diseases Program for the Moose Factory Zone, Medical Services Branch of Health Canada.

Viruses that cause flu spread from person to person mainly by coughing and sneezing or through something as simple as shaking hands. It is difficult to protect the old and the very young from contagious people because the flu can be spread by someone who's symptoms are not yet apparent.

There are several ways to

prevent the transmission of a flu virus to someone else. Since the flu is very contagious and can easily be spread by droplet, precautions include: avoiding open sneezing and coughing, kissing, hugging, any close contact, not sharing drinks and frequently washing hands.

"Although some of the precautions for avoiding the flu are difficult for First Nation people who are very social it is necessary to protect their loved ones who are susceptible to these viruses. When a person is sick with the flu they should consider staying at home and taking care not to come into contact with a lot of people," said McLeod.

She suggests a person who has the flu should stay at home, rest and allow their body's immune system to fight off the virus. McLeod also recommends eating healthy foods such as citrus fruits, taking vitamin C, getting plenty of rest and drinking plenty of fluids. It is probably not necessary to see the doctor for minor flu symptoms as others may be infected when you go to the hospital but if symptoms worsen it is a good idea to seek medical attention.

Documentation Project

TIMMINS, Ont. - Jennifer McLeod, Wabun Health Director is pleased to



THE DOCUMENTATION PROJECT will provide improved patient confidentiality and a standardized way of keeping records for Wabun Health and all of Wabun's communities. Pictured is Vanessa Lewington, Health Records Consultant who led the project's undertaking of converting old records to a newer standardized system.

announce the implementation of an all new client chart system for all Wabun First Nation patient records. This will help to standardize all records for easy interpretation by all health staff and at the same time improve protection of client confidentiality.

"Once the new client chart system is complete, all our health staff will be able to find better more organized, significant information they need about any patient. We also decided that a client's confidentiality was very important and so based the conversion on a numbering system, rather than using a person's name. This will ensure the confidentiality of all patient records," said McLeod.

The new chart system came out of recommendations of a documentation committee comprised of the Wabun Health staff and Director to address the need to standardize the records of all Wabun's First

Nations. Vanessa Lewington, Health Records Consultant is heading the chart conversion process with Wabun Health. In January 1998, she began implementation of the new client chart conversion on records from Wabun Health and for every Wabun First Nation community.

"It has been a long process to get to the point where we are finally going to complete the chart conversion for all of Wabun's First Nation clients. The end result for all of this will be a better flow of information for everyone through a more standardized records system. The new improved system is a result of the dedication and input of all the health staff and as well a positive reaction by the Wabun community leadership. Wabun Health will now have a system in place that will assist health workers to provide better care in the long run for their patients," said Lewington.

Health Matters

by Jennifer McLeod, Health Director



Well I am happy to report that Y2K was a non event as related to our Wabun First Nation communities. I want to commend our Wabun communities for the great job in Y2K preparedness they did. All the communities were ready thanks to the hard work of many community members and Crisis Teams.

To ensure full coverage and our accessibility hear at Wabun Health myself and Peggy Claveau, the Assistant Health Director and our entire Wabun Health staff were on call over the holidays. Due to concerns over Y2K and the fact that the Wabun offices were closed for about a week and a half over the holidays it was decided that we would provide on call service for our communities during this time. A memo was issued to all Community Health Nurses alerting them to the fact we were on call and providing them a cell and phone number where we could be contacted. This was the first time ever that the entire Wabun Health staff provided this service and for good reason. Usually this is a very busy time of the year and problems arise but I am happy to report that due to everyone's preparedness and the fact that people were being cautious we had

no incidents occur.

I was especially impressed with the fact that Wagosig First Nation decided to purchase wood stoves for people in their community to make sure they were prepared in case electrical services or fuel became unavailable.

This exercise in preparing for Y2K has been very beneficial in terms of providing our crisis teams with a lot of experience and training. I want to see all of us continue to develop emergency response plans and consider what training is needed on an ongoing basis for our crisis teams. It is important to keep these teams in place so that our communities are equipped and trained to meet any emergency situations that may arise.

I want to be able to offer our Wabun communities more training in critical areas like medical emergencies and mental health crisis. In addition it is imperative that we keep up our preparation in terms of emergency response so that we are ready for emergency situations arising out of fires, floods, earthquakes or any other natural disasters. Forest fire disasters are of special significance for all of our Wabun communities and have caused emergencies many times in the past.

We will keep you posted of any initiatives and opportunities that are developed to make sure Wabun Communities are prepared for any emergency and once again I congratulate everyone for being so well prepared during the holidays.

Mattagami FN Medical Vehicle

MATTAGAMI FN, Ont.- In December 1999 Mattagami First Nation purchased a new medical services transportation vehicle.

"This was something that was needed by the community. We had one previously but this new vehicle is more accessible and comfortable for our patients," said Eileen Boissoneau, Community Health Representative for Mattagami FN.

The new vehicle comes complete with a wheel chair lift which will make it accessible for clients with special needs. The heavy duty GMC van is also capable of providing seating for up to 12 passengers.

"This vehicle was provided through the Medical Transportation Agreement under the Medical Services Branch of Health Canada. It is very beneficial that our people are provided with this type of vehicle for the needs of the community members," said Margaret Naveau, Band Manager for Mattagami FN.

Larry Naveau, Medical Services Driver for Mattagami FN is impressed with the new vehicle's comfort and passenger capacity.

"Many of our people who have had a chance to ride in the new vehicle say that they enjoy it and that it is very comfortable. The wheel

chair lift is also a great addition. This is the first time we have had the benefit of a wheelchair lift," said Naveau.

He should know what constitutes a safe and good quality vehicle considering he spends much of his time providing the much needed vehicle transportation service to his community.

"I really enjoy my job and this new vehicle makes the work of transportation a lot easier for me and it also provides more comfort, space and better access for community members in general and for those with special needs," said Naveau.



A NEW MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE was purchased by Mattagami FN to provide better accessibility and comfort for its patients. Pictured above is Larry Naveau, Medical Services Driver for Mattagami FN, with the new GMC Heavy Duty van.

Getting To Know You - Shawn Batise

TIMMINS, ONT. - Shawn Batise, Executive Director of Wabun Tribal Council is the featured Wabun staff person for this issue of Wabun Sun. Batise started with Wabun in November 1990 just a few months after its creation. Over the past 10 years he has become well known right across the country for his commitment and dedication to First Nation people and especially the people of Wabun First Nations.

In addition to holding the position of Executive Director for

Wabun he is also proud of many other positions of leadership and trust including: being a founding member and the current Chair of the Mamo-Wichi-Hetiwin Area Management Board, a member of RAMBO and NAMB, a member of the negotiating team and steering committee for the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation RBA, Chair and lead negotiator for the Mamo Nuskomitowin AHRDA, the key Wabun negotiator of the first Federal Health Transfer in Ontario, Chair of Nishnawbe-

Aski Development Fund and member of the National Aboriginal Capital Corporation Association. In addition he has sat on many boards and steering and negotiating committees over the years.

"I really like my position with Wabun because of the diversity of experiences and challenges this job involves. It is also great to be working as part of a team with our Wabun First Nation Chiefs and Councils and we have managed with that team spirit to produce a lot of

development over the years," said Batise.

He explained that he gets a lot of satisfaction in dealing and negotiating with other First Nation organizations, the federal government and provincial government to give the Wabun First Nations a voice.

"I got a lot of satisfaction out of negotiating a good deal in terms of funds distribution for smaller First Nation communities with the Casino Rama fund issue," said

Batise. Batise has always had a big interest in politics and his goal is to perhaps run for a major First Nation provincial or national position. His expertise and skills would also provide him with opportunities to hold high level positions with the federal or provincial governments.

Before coming to Wabun he was employed by Placer Dome Mines as a Maintenance Engineer. He graduated as a Mechanical Engineering Technician from the Haileybury School of Mines and is currently working on a Business degree through correspondence with the University of Windsor.

Caring For You - Cecile Wesley

CHAPLEAU OJIBWE FN, Ont. - Cecile Wesley, Community Health Nurse (CHN), is the featured Wabun Health staff person for this issue of Wabun Sun. She started her position in September 1998. Wesley is based in the Chapleau area where she provides regular health services to the First Nation communities of Chapleau Ojibwe and Brunswick House.

Her main responsibilities 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. She provides these serv-

ices on a regular basis through rotating visits three days a week to Brunswick House First Nation and two days a week to Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation.

"I enjoy working with our First Nations and getting the chance to meet community members and their elders. I have an understanding of First Nations and the health sector which really helps me to promote healthier ways of living. I am very sensitive of the culture because it is very important to me," said Wesley.

She brings many years of experience as a registered nurse and as a CHN to her position with Wabun Health. Before being employed with Wabun she was a Homecare Nurse for Moose Cree

First Nation. Previous to this she was employed with Mushkegowuk Council as a CHN for Chapleau Cree First Nation. In addition, Wesley has also been employed as a General Duty Nurse for Weenaybayko General Hospital in Moose Factory. At one time she also took part in the Northern Clinical Nursing Program which was offered by McMaster University. As a Registered Nurse she is a member of the Ontario College of Nurses.

Wesley believes that her position is an ongoing learning experience that also allows her to provide input for solutions to problems in First Nation communities. As an example, she attended the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) Suicide Prevention Conference held

in Thunder Bay on January 25, 26 and 27, 2000.

"I am very glad I am in a position to help our people advance in areas such as health and health education. The NAN Suicide Prevention Conference is one example where we are able to address suicide in our communities by providing our input and learn how others feel about the issue," said Wesley.

She is a First Nation Cree person, originally from Moose Factory. A member of Chapleau Cree First Nation, she speaks the Cree language. She is married to Gerald and they have two sons Jeff, 24 and Glen, 17. Wesley enjoys spending time with her family, traveling and snowmobiling.



Cecile Wesley

Wabun Health

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sponding with the Medical Services Branch (MSB) to secure access to funding to this program as soon as possible. We are in a good position to acquire this funding considering that we have a working history with the province in long term care," said McLeod.

She also announced that there will be an Enhanced Diabetes Program through funds provided by the MSB. At this point this program is in the preliminary stages and the final structure or concept has not been decided.

Both programs mentioned above are being developed for Wabun First Nation community members

due to lobbying and correspondence by Wabun Health Services to the federal and provincial governments.

McLeod also pointed out that an HIV/AIDS Youth Workshop sponsored and organized by Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) will be held in Timmins in March.

"I am very happy that NAN decided to host this major workshop in Timmins. This is a NAN wide workshop that is very important for all of our First Nation communities and especially our youth," said McLeod.

If anyone is interested in attending this conference please call McLeod at Wabun Health services at 705-268-9066.

Wabun FN Events Listing

BRUNSWICK HOUSE FN: Mini Monster Bingo on February 11.

MATTAGAMI FN: Three nights a week there will be youth activities and every day after school there will be a Drama Club, both will take place at the Community Complex. For more information contact Jennifer Constant, Youth Worker. Health Clinics will take place every week on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Monthly Band Meetings will take place at around the 23rd of every month.

A Monster Bingo will be held February 27 at the Community Complex, contact the Mattagami FN band office for more information.

MATACHEWAN FN: The First

Nation was contacted but there were no events reported.

WAHGOSHIG FN: Community Bingos are scheduled for every Saturday. Special events for Adults will be held on February 14, Valentine's Day. A Meals on Wheels Program for elders is being developed. A skiing trip for youth to Kamiskotia is also being planned. For more information on any of these events or services contact the Band office.

BEAVERHOUSE FN: The first and third Thursday of every month will feature an Elders Luncheon, Feb. 3 & 17; Mar. 2 & 16.

CHAPLEAU OBJIBWE FN: The first Nation was contacted but there were no events reported.

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