



Wabun Sun

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Annual General Meeting Held At Mattagami FN

MATTAGAMI FIRST NATION, Ont. - The Wabun Tribal Council's 11th Annual General Meeting (AGM) November 23, 2001 featured positive news in terms of financial stability, provision of services to the Wabun communities and ongoing development.

In opening the AGM, Shawn Batise, Executive Director of Wabun noted that this year the annual event had been delayed due to the tragic passing of past Chief Clifford Diamond of Wahgoshig First Nation. He also thanked Chief Chad Boissoneau and Mattagami First Nation for hosting the AGM. In addition he thanked the elder, Chiefs of Wabun, staff and community members for their participation in the AGM.

Wabun's board of directors is made up of the following Chiefs from Wabun First Nation communities: Chief Chad Boissoneau of Mattagami, Chief Marilyn Gagnon-Doyle of Brunswick House; Chief Paul McKenzie of Wahgoshig, Chief Richard Winickaby of Matachewan, Chief Roy Meaniss of Beaverhouse and Chief Anita Memegos-Stephens of Chapleau Ojibwe. The Wabun Board Chairperson is Alfred Ojeebah.

"I am happy to report that we have managed to have a very healthy bottom line for some

time now and that is due to sound financial management and the direction from our board. We have also continued to improve efficiency through new technologies and a stream lining of reporting structures," explained Batise.

He also noted that this fiscal year was the last full year of the operating and revenue sharing agreements for Casino Rama of Mnjikaning First Nation and that new agreements were to be negotiated by July 31, 2001.

"No doubt about it the flow of Casino Rama funds has been a real boon to our communities with assistance in projects involving economic development, housing and education," said Batise.

However he also added that due to issues involving Casino expansion, a claim by Mnjikaning First Nation for a permanent 35 percent share of casino funds and a tax grab by the Ontario government would lead to a decrease in flow of funds.

In terms of issues Batise pointed to two major concerns that took place over the past fiscal year. The first involved the successful lobbying of Wahgoshig First Nation to force Abitibi Consolidated to negotiate with the First Nation in consideration of forest harvesting occurring on traditional lands. Wabun assisted Wahgoshig in this struggle with



WABUN STAFF at the Wabun 11th Annual General Meeting in Mattagami FN. From L-R are: Therese McLellan, Community Health Nurse; Shawn Batise, Executive Director; Audrey Allaire, Secretary; Darlene Lafontaine, Financial Advisor; Peggy Claveau, Assistant Health Director; Jean Lemieux, Health Director and Jason Batise, Economic Development and Technical Services Advisor.

monetary and staff support during blockades and protests at the company's Iroquois Falls mill.

The other issue dealt with supporting Matachewan First Nation in its bid to work with other groups to defeat an initiative to bring Toronto's garbage to Northern Ontario near Kirkland Lake. Wabun Tribal Council assisted with human and financial resources to assist the First Nation. With protest from many Native and non-Native groups the project was stopped.

Batise also noted that NAN Governance Initiative had continued throughout the fiscal year and the Wabun Tribal Council had been doing research involving this issue. He also noted that INAC has been putting forward a response to the Corbiere

decision and that in Phase Two, First Nation's budgets and services would be affected.

FINANCES

Wayne McDonald of KPMG and Auditor for Wabun Tribal Council presented his report.

"Wabun is producing some very good Capital Projects for the communities and as well is taking advantage of funds flowing and is also lobbying for more funding from governments to service Wabun communities," said McDonald.

He also noted that the Wabun Development Corporation was performing well and that in general, Wabun Tribal Council should be very proud of its operation.

Darlene Lafontaine,

Financial Advisor for Wabun Tribal Council, tabled her report beginning with a thank you to the Wabun Chiefs and staff for assisting her in settling into her new position. She pointed out that she is part of a team in that she and Paulette McKay, Wabun's Bookkeeper work together in the financial department.

"Our goal within the department is to develop a system that is cost-effective and user friendly for any individual requiring financial information. We bring this principal into our communities as well," said Lafontaine.

She noted that she was thankful to the Wabun Board of Directors and management for allowing her to make some positive revisions in the financial department. Lafontaine works with

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Wabun Tribal Council Saddened At The Passing Of Clifford Diamond



Clifford Diamond

Wabun Tribal Council, the community of Wahgoshig First Nation and indeed the First Nation community at large lost a kind and dedicated friend with the passing of Clifford Peter Joseph Diamond, Monday October 15.

He passed on with heart complications at the Sudbury Memorial Hospital at the age of 53. Clifford was a very well respected First Nation leader who was Chief of Wahgoshig First Nation for nine years and a First

Nation councillor for six years. He was instrumental in working along with the other Chiefs of Wabun to assist in developing the Wabun Tribal Council and he produced much development for his community.

"Clifford was such a good, kind and caring person. When I became Chief of my community he helped me by explaining or translating things that took place in meetings as my English was not so good at that time. He was always supportive and when he came into a meeting he made a difference in the mood of the meeting by bringing his humour to the table. He made everyone comfortable," said Chief Paul McKenzie of Wahgoshig, First Nation.

Chief McKenzie also noted that Clifford was very close to the land and enjoyed the traditional pursuits of hunting and fish-

ing.

Liz Babin, of Wahgoshig First Nation pointed out that Clifford was very experienced on many levels of operations in the community. He had much experience in working with police services through the years and as a matter of fact he was on the board of directors for Nishnawbe Aski Police Service and as well was a member of the board for Kunuwanimano Child & Family Service. He was also closely involved with the housing portfolio in the community and was a liaison person for the WAMI Forestry Company of Wahgoshig in dealing with forestry companies.

"Clifford was very well respected and well liked in the community. He did so much for us and he always did things with a sense of good humour. He was a happy man and he loved the time he spent on the land fishing and

hunting," said George Sackney.

Shawn Batise, Executive Director of Wabun Tribal Council expressed his thanks at having had the opportunity to work with Clifford.

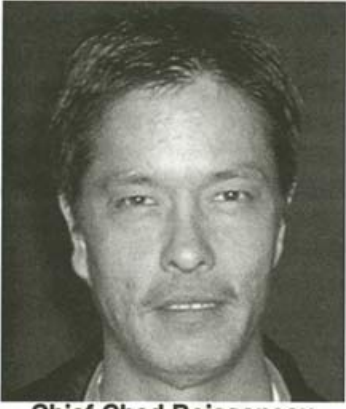
"Clifford brought a wealth of expertise and a tireless energy to the table when he was Chief of Wahgoshig and a member of our Board of Directors. He always rose to the challenge no matter what issue was at hand and he never lost his composure but helped many of us with his wisdom, humour and good spirit. We will all miss him. He will not be forgotten," said Batise.

Clifford was the husband of Charlotte (nee Weizineau), loving father of Carole Diamond, Victor Diamond (Olivia Sutherland) and Cynthia Diamond, all of the Wahgoshig First Nation. Dear grandfather of Carla Diamond, Maurice J.R.

Singer, Gilles Iahtail, Shayna F. Diamond, Sylvia D. Babin, Lauren F. Diamond, Billy D. Babin, Bradley Diamond, Jay Babin, River F. Diamond, Ethan Diamond, Desiree S. Diamond, Cameron Diamond, and Keifer Diamond.

Clifford also leaves his sister Lilliane Malette (Peter), his niece Christine Widdifield (Gerald) and their children Jesse, Shawna and Michelle, his nephew Alphonse Malette (Crystal Racicot) and their children Sheldon, Brandon, Alishia and July and his niece Anna Ellison and her children Aaron Lockwood, Brett Lockwood, Dannah Ellison and Emily Ellison. He is also survived by his uncles Dave Diamond, Noel Diamond and Alex Black. A memorial service was held in Wahgoshig First Nation October 18 and he was laid to rest in Obedjiwan Cemetery in Quebec.

Chief's Corner - Chief Chad Boissoneau



Chief Chad Boissoneau

Chief Chad Boissoneau of Mattagami First Nation is the featured Chief for this issue of Wabun Sun. He was recently elected as Chief of his community on April 11, 2001 to a two year term. Before his election to Chief he served as a Councillor in his community for two years.

"I feel good that the community has given me their support. This is a very challenging position but it is giving me the opportunity to deal with forestry companies and organizations at a new level. I want to help my community

and deal with the issues that affect our people," said Chief Boissoneau.

He sits as a representative of his community on several boards related to forestry management. Currently he sits on Forestry Management Teams with Domtar and Tembec as a planning team member.

"Our participation in boards and management teams that deal with the forestry sector is important for our community. It gives us a chance to see proposed plans for the future and understand their impacts and how they will affect our community. This participation also gives us an opportunity to provide our input into these plans for the benefit of our community," said Chief Boissoneau.

He is an advocate for issues dealing with natural resources. Chief Boissoneau has many years of experience to draw from in past positions he has held in the forestry and mining sectors. From 1987 to 1991 he was employed with

Detour Lake Mines where he worked as a Mill Operator and as an Underground Heavy Equipment Mechanic. He later worked for the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) from 1992 to 1996 as a Forestry Technician in Gogama. This position dealt with compliance monitoring, assessments of forestry activity in the area and fisheries management. During this period he also assisted in the development and implementation of several training programs for his community in forestry harvesting with the help of organizations such as Mamo-Wichi-Hetiwin Employment & Training. While working for the MNR, he also completed a three year distance education program with Sault Ste Marie College and obtained his diploma as a Forestry Technician. From 1997 to 1999, he also developed his own forest fire fighting business to provide the MNR additional people in this area of work.

Chief Boissoneau wants to see more employment

opportunities for the people of his community.

"I want to help my community develop more employment opportunities such as in the forestry sector. This is possible with the successful implementation of contracts with forestry companies such as Tembec and Domtar. With these partnerships we can provide meaningful employment for our people," said Chief Boissoneau.

He also noted that the culture and traditional rights of his people have to be protected.

"We do not want to lose our traditional land and governance rights. I want to ensure that our First Nation has a good understanding of these rights and that we are well involved in self governance issues," said Chief Boissoneau.

He is originally from Garden River First Nation near Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. In 1987 he became a permanent resident of Mattagami First Nation where his mother is originally from. He is a First Nation Ojibway and a member of Mattagami First Nation.

Evelyn Black Completes Mental Health Program

Evelyn Black, National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention (NNADAP) Worker for Wahgoshig First Nation recently completed a Mental Health program with Misiway Eniniwuk Health Centre in Timmins. The program took place from April to October 2001 and featured training in a method of psychotherapy called focusing.

Shirley Turcotte facilitated this program which trained several First Nation participants. Although the program is for both Native and non-Native groups, this mental health worker training was organized for First Nation health workers by the Misiway Eniniwuk Health Centre. Black attended the program at the Misiway Eniniwuk Health Centre office with the facilitator three times a month to learn this new method of mental health therapy. The program was geared to Native participants and included lessons by the facilitator and hands on teaching by having individuals do role playing in roles of both the mental health worker and the client.

"I have always had an

interest in the mental health field. This was a beneficial program and a different way of counseling people. It gave me new skills as a mental health worker and this will be beneficial for me as a NNADAP worker for Wahgoshig FN. I enjoyed the program and it was a good way for me to enhance my knowledge as a mental health care worker. I recommend it for any mental health care worker," said Black.

She has been the NNADAP worker for Wahgoshig FN since 1996. Black has worked in the health care field for many years and has held the position of Community Health Representative and as a NNADAP worker for Henvey Inlet First Nation. In addition she graduated from Cambrian College in Sudbury, Ontario after two years of study in 1991 and received a diploma in Community Care and Counseling.

At the end of the mental health care program she received a certificate of completion from the facilitator. She explained that she enjoys working in the mental health care field.

"I am happy to complete

this program and add to my experience and skills as a health care worker. I always want to further my own education and it feels good to be able to enhance my knowledge in an area of work that I enjoy," said Black.

She is a First Nation Ojibway person and a member of Henvey Inlet First Nation. Black currently lives in Wahgoshig FN.

Wabun Health Services funds the NNADAP program in Wahgoshig FN. Jean Lemieux, Wabun Health Director explained that Black received this mental health care training as part of the ongoing health initiatives of Wabun Health to enhance her skills as a NNADAP Worker.

"Periodically, our health care workers need to develop new skills in their area of health care. Evelyn took the initiative to attend this program and we supported her desire to learn some new skills in the mental health care field. This type of training and ongoing skill development for our health care workers will ensure the well being of our Wabun communities," said Lemieux.

Reflections

by Shawn Batise, Executive Director



Wabun Tribal Council has embarked on a Strategic Planning process. This idea has been discussed for a few years now and about five years ago the Wabun Chiefs at the time had expressed an interest in producing a Strategic Plan. Recently the Wabun Chiefs, our senior administration and our staff all communicated a desire to proceed with Strategic Planning and I am happy to report that we are well on our way with the process.

We had made application to produce a Strategic Plan with FedNor and in September we received approval of that application. Government agencies and the private sector have been through this Strategic Planning process at many levels for years now. Many First Nation organizations and agencies have also been actively involved in Strategic Planning. We felt it was time that we brought our Chiefs and senior staff people together to have a professionally facilitated session to review our needs and look at planning for our future.

Strategic Planning is very important for Wabun Tribal Council at this point to address concerns that will come out of such government initiatives as the Corbiere Decision and other developments that

will affect us. We need to go through this process to be in a strong situation in preparation for any new developments from government that comes our way. It is also imperative to have a Strategic Plan in place these days in order to further satisfy government and funding bodies that we deal with.

This Strategic Planning process will reach right across Wabun Tribal Council with input from our Chiefs, Wabun staff and community members. It is an opportunity for Wabun Tribal Council to broaden the scope of input and ideas so that we can proceed into the millennium confident and prepared in a proactive way for future developments. It will improve our ability to identify opportunities and develop them to our advantage.

I want to thank all of those who are taking part in our Strategic Planning process and of course our consultants on the project, KPMG.

Recently while we were engaged in a Strategic Planning session we received word of the passing of one of our most respected leaders, Clifford Diamond of Wahgoshig First Nation. Clifford was a very important part of Wabun Tribal Council's development and served many years as a board member as the Chief of Wahgoshig First Nation. We are grateful for his many years of dedication and input and our prayers go out to his family, friends and the community of Wahgoshig. Clifford will be sadly missed by all of us.

Wabun Golf Tournament Better Than Ever

TIMMINS, ONT. - Participants in the 8th Annual Wabun Tribal Council Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament braved cool and damp weather to compete at the event held Friday, September 21, 2001 at Spruce Needles Golf Club.

The big winners again this year were the team of Jason Batise, Lily Batise, Barney Batise and Doreen Batise. Runners up were the team of Fabian Batise, Sherry Weistche, Gerry Kingsbury and Paulette McKay.

"We were a little worried about rain but most of our competitors showed up to support this worthwhile cause. There was a good mix of participants this year with support

from Wabun First Nation Leadership, community members, First Nation staff from many agencies and businesses and also non-Native people from the business sector," said Shawn Batise, Executive Director of Wabun Tribal Council.

People came from as far as from as the Hamilton area to attend the event which is dedicated to assisting Wabun students with scholarships. Batise also explained that the event is an opportunity for First Nation people and Non Native people to get together for socializing with the idea of breaking down barriers and fostering friendship and understanding.

Funds raised at the

tournament through sponsorships are made available as scholarships to qualifying Wabun Tribal Council post secondary students. The major sponsor was Northern Telephone and other sponsors included: First Nation Engineering, Bank of Nova Scotia, Watson Parojic Many Nations Trust, Ontario First Nation Technical Services Corporation, Uniglobe Tri Pro Travel Limited, Barry's Ford and Mattagami Construction.

"We are proud to be sponsors of this tournament. We work with many First Nation communities and it is really great to spend some time with our friends here at Wabun Tribal Council. We are here to support First Nation youth

and to encourage them to consider engineering as a career path," said Craig Baker, General Manager, First Nations Engineering, headquartered in Oshwekon, near Hamilton, Ontario. For many of the First Nation participants this was the first time they played a game of golf.

"We really enjoyed ourselves here today. I am not much of a golfer but I appreciate the opportunity to participate in an event that benefits Wabun First Nation students and that gives us all a chance to get to know each other better," said Chief Chad Boissoneau, Mattagami First Nation.

The annual event started through the efforts of Shawn Batise and Jason Batise,

Economic Development and Technical Services Advisor for the tribal council.

"We are very proud of the progress our Wabun members are making in their education performance and choices. It is a pleasure to be able to assist them through this annual event and I can only hope that the tournament continues to grow every year," said Shawn Batise.

Wabun Tribal Council serves the First Nation communities of Chapleau Ojibwe, Beaverhouse, Brunswick House, Matachewan, Mattagami and Wahgoshig. Anyone wanting to participate in next year's tournament or to become a sponsor of the event is encouraged to call Wabun Tribal Council for more information.



THE WABUN GOLF TOURNAMENT for scholarships to Wabun students was enjoyed by all who took part in the tournament. From L-R are: Rob Mannila, Craig Baker, First Nation Engineering; Clara Wheesk, Mamo-Wichi-Hetiwin Employment & Training and Therese McLellan, Wabun Community Health Nurse.

TOURNAMENT WINNERS of the recent Wabun Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament was the team of (from L-R) Jason Batise, Wabun Economic Development and Technical Services Advisor; Doreen Batise, Lily Batise and Barney Batise.



BRUNSWICK HOUSE FN PARTICIPANTS enjoyed a day of golfing at Wabun's Annual Golf Tournament. From l-r are: G. Redbreast, Kenneth Saunders, George McWatch and Tracey Redbreast.

EVERYONE HAD FUN at the Wabun Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament. Picture from L-R are: Joe Gaboury, Cindy Giguere, Wabun Community Health Nurse; Nova Cornelsen and Shawn Batise, Wabun Executive Director.



Students Encouraged To Apply For Scholarship Fund

TIMMINS, ONT - The Wabun Tribal Council has announced that the deadline for applications for the Wabun Scholarship Fund this year is set at January 25, 2001. The scholarship application is open to any Wabun Tribal Council First Nation student as long as he or she is enrolled in a post secondary school.

The applicant must send a letter to the attention of: Scholarship Fund, Shawn Batise, Executive Director of Wabun Tribal Council. The letter should detail a little about why the applicant feels he or she deserves this scholarship and indicate what program he or she is attending. Preference will be given to those in programs relating to telecommunications, health, engineering and business. The applicant must also include a proof of academic performance or a recent transcript.

The scholarships available include: Northern Telephone, \$1,000; First Nations Engineering \$500; Wabun Health Services, \$500. and the Bank of Nova Scotia \$250. The funds are raised through the Annual Wabun

Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament. This year's tournament was held September 21 at Spruce Needles Golf Club in Timmins.

"Wabun Tribal Council is very proud of all our students and we encourage education counsellors to promote these scholarships to students in their community. Our youth are our leaders for tomorrow and it is our hope that these scholarships will assist some of them in reaching their goals," said Batise.

Last year the winners were: Russell - Evans, a Matachewan First Nation member who was awarded \$1,000 by sponsor, Wabun Tribal Council First Nation Development Corporation; Richard Wincikabay of Matachewan First Nation who was awarded \$200. by sponsor, First Nation Engineering; Arthur Constant of Mattagami was awarded \$250 sponsored by First Nation Engineering; Jannine Batisse of Matachewan First Nation who was also awarded \$200. by Bank of Nova Scotia and Mary Lee Boissoneau of Mattagami First Nation who was awarded \$375 by Wabun Health Services.

Wabun Tribal Council 11th Annual General Meeting

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Wabun communities on an ongoing basis in terms of finances. She also sits as a member of the Timmins Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, where she is a co-Chair of the Workforce Development Committee. As past Workforce 2000 Conference Committee Chairperson, she has assisted in developing opportunities for First Nation people. In addition, she is a member of the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) Fiscal Relations Committee.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/TECH SERVICES

Jason Batise, Economic Development and Technical Services Advisor for Wabun Tribal Council headlined his report to the Wabun Chiefs with major Capital Projects in Brunswick House FN, Matachewan FN and Wahgoshig FN.

He reported that the construction of the Brunswick House FN water treatment plant and sub-

division which began in January 2000 is now 95 percent complete. This included construction and replacement of all water mains, construction of a new water treatment plant, installation of fire hydrants, construction of access and subdivision roads, servicing to 24 new housing jobs, installation of sprinklers in the existing administration building and extension of hydro services. The project also provided employment for local community members.

In addition, Jason Batise noted that Matachewan and Wahgoshig First Nation had been put on INAC's Major Capital Plan. Their initiatives are based on the development of new water systems and subdivisions. Also, he explained that there were several training programs in Wabun communities coordinated through his department. Jason Batise was also happy to report that in working with Wahgoshig First Nation the community was supplied with an

improved telephone service. He sits on many boards and committees as part of his dedication in representing Wabun First Nation communities.

HEALTH SERVICES

Wabun Health Services Health Director, Jean Lemieux welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in tabling her report to the Wabun Chiefs, staff and community members in Mattagami FN on November 23, 2001.

She pointed out that Wabun Health Services has provided community health services through a health transfer agreement with Medical Services Branch (MSB) to Wabun First Nation communities.

"Health program activities that have been included in this annual report are the combined efforts of the Wabun Health Team which includes the Community Health Representatives, National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Program workers, Mental Health Workers, Community Health Nurses, Health Clerks, Reception/Secretary and the Assistant Health Director. Our activities are based on the needs of the communities through surveys and on going communication with our community leaders, health care workers and members," said Lemieux.

Lemieux emphasized that Wabun Health Services continues to strive towards assisting community members to access health services that offer both a western medicine and/or traditional medicine approach. Through the Wabun Health team that becomes more multidisciplinary with each new program added, Wabun's ability to offer programs from a more holistic perspective is enhanced.

She outlined Wabun Health Service performance for the fiscal year of 2000-2001 and also noted that Wabun Health is playing

a major role in Strategic Planning.

Peggy Claveau, Assistant Health Director presented her report to the Board. She covered the administration of the Non-Insured Health Benefits, the Patient Transportation Program and Injury Prevention. She thanked the Wabun Board of Directors, Wabun Staff and community members for their roles and participation in these areas. In addition she presented First Nations members attending the AGM with certificates of completion of Canadian Red Cross Injury Prevention Training.

Mattagami Chief Chad Boissoneau thanked all of the people who attended the Wabun Tribal Council Annual General Meeting in his home First Nation. Elder Norman Naveau of Mattagami FN provided opening and closing prayers for the event. As well, Executive Director Shawn Batise thanked the kitchen staff for producing an excellent lunch.



A FEAST prepared by Mattagami FN members was enjoyed by all at the Wabun Annual General Meeting. Here we see participants of the AGM serving themselves during lunch.



TAKING A BREAK at the Wabun AGM are from L-R: Wayne McDonald, KPMG and Darlene Lafontaine, Wabun Financial Advisor.



SERVING UP A FEAST was the responsibility of Mattagami FN members including sisters; Cathy Stoney, head cook; Bev Naveau, now residing in Chapleau Ojibwe FN and Kim Adams, Mattagami FN Recreation Director / Youth Worker.



MEETING NEW FRIENDS and renewing old ones was part of the Wabun Annual General Meeting. Pictured from L-R are: Elder Norman Naveau, Mattagami FN and Fabian Batise, Matachewan FN.



WABUN HEALTH recognized the completion of Canadian Red Cross Injury Prevention Training in each of Wabun's communities. Pictured is Peggy Claveau, Wabun Assistant Health Director making a presentation to Chief Richard Wincikaby on behalf of his community, Matachewan FN.



BRUNSWICK HOUSE FN representatives were on hand to accept a certificate of recognition for Canadian Red Cross Injury Prevention Training by their community members. Pictured is Peggy Claveau, Wabun Assistant Health Director presenting a certificate to Brunswick House FN representatives Joyce Wright and Alfred Ojeebah, Wabun Board Chairperson.

Health Canada Pushes Pro Forma Agreement

Health Canada is pushing a Pro Forma Agreement on to First Nations even though the Chiefs Of Ontario has submitted a set of proposed amendments to it. The Chiefs of Ontario had asked for an extension and it was granted to March 2002.

First Nation leadership is protesting that this agreement was developed by Health Canada without First Nation input. The agreement was released during the last days of March 2001, along with the message that it had to be signed within a few months, otherwise, Health Canada declared it would find some other means to deliver health services and programs at the local level. The deadline for unilateral action by Health Canada was originally set for September 30, 2001.

The Chiefs of Ontario representatives were upset that

Health Canada had initially resisted all pleas for an extension to permit fair and reasonable consultation with First Nations. The Chiefs of Ontario representatives and First Nation officials met with senior Health Canada officials in August 2001. No progress was made during this meeting in terms of convincing Health Canada to consider a set of proposed amendments to the Pro Forma Agreement or to extend the deadline for implementation of the agreement. It was shortly before the deadline that the extension was granted.

Health Canada has resisted renegotiation of the Pro Forma Agreement at regional or Ontario levels and instead wants to work out the new agreement at the First Nation or community level. Health Canada claims that it

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Wabun Tribal Council Plans For The Future

Wabun Tribal Council recently launched a Strategic Planning Process to develop a five-year plan aimed at meeting the needs of the Wabun First Nations well into the millennium. The process began with direction from Wabun Chiefs to proceed with the planning through an initial briefing from the senior management of Wabun Tribal Council in early October. In mid October a two-day Strategic Planning Session was held with participation from Wabun Chiefs, First Nation Administrators, Councillors and Wabun Senior Management and Staff. KPMG, which is assisting Wabun in this process will work with the organization to produce a report or master plan based on Wabun input. At that point consultation will be sought from Wabun community members and in the final analysis this should result in a five year Business or Operational Plan for Wabun Tribal Council.

"We decided that it was time that we became more proactive in terms of developing our future and with this in mind we opted to pursue the development of Strategic Planning. All governments from municipal to federal levels and most corporations these days have gone through this process and have plans for their development in place. A lot of First Nation organizations have also been developing long range

planning through this process," said Shawn Batise, Executive Director, Wabun Tribal Council.

KPMG is no stranger to Wabun Tribal Council. Wayne MacDonald, KPMG's Chartered Account and Senior Principle out of the Sudbury office, serves as Wabun's auditor. He is part of the KPMG team assisting Wabun with this planning. In addition to MacDonald, Wayne Greer, a Senior Manager in Sales and Marketing for KPMG, Cory Restoule a Marketing and Sales Advisor and Lily Menominee, an Associate are spearheading the planning process for Wabun. Greer is based in Waterloo while Restoule, who is a First Nation person from Dokis FN is based in Sudbury.

"We work with many First Nation organizations and I am very happy with the great efforts that Wabun Tribal Council leadership has made in providing us with the direction we need and of course their participation in this Strategic Planning process. I have heard a lot of significant ideas and needs expressed by Wabun Chiefs and Wabun senior management and I know that this process will assist us to develop a meaningful plan for the Wabun Tribal Council," said Restoule.

Greer commended Wabun Tribal Council Chiefs and management, staff and community members for developing what

he describes as a "first class organization with a long record of success". He believes the time is right for the development of professional Strategic Planning. He also pointed out that these days it really is a good idea for any organization to be able to provide their funding bodies with a Strategic Plan in the best interest of competitive advantage.

With initial direction from the Wabun Chiefs and senior Wabun staff, the KPMG team provided a two-day session dedicated to strategic planning. On the first day of the session the participants included Wabun Chiefs, Wabun First Nation Administrators, Councillors and senior Wabun staff. A review of the organization, which focused on Wabun history and reflection on its mission statement was held. During the first day the participants were broken out into teams to develop five priorities per team deemed important to include in the planning process with rationale, criteria and a process to make them happen.

"I was very happy with that first day of brainstorming by all of the Wabun participants. It was very productive and we ended up with sufficient ideas to produce a 20-year plan. However, we are intent to streamline these into a list of priorities that can be realistically accomplished in a five year period," said Greer.

Through a rating process

the group was able to streamline and produce a listing of four priorities. These priorities included: 1. Personal and Professional Development and Training; 2. Development of a Mental Health Program; 3. Creation of an Economic Development Strategy and 4. The Development of a Communication Strategy. Lively and enthusiastic discussion, debate and negotiation by Wabun Strategic Plan Session participants resulted in the production of these four priorities. Much time was devoted to unearthing strengths and weaknesses in leading to priorities that the participants could buy into and support in consensus.

Although these priorities were identified for realistic development in the short term KPMG will also include long term priorities in its report and all priorities identified will become part of the Strategic Plan. It is important to note that the Strategic Plan will be presented for Wabun Community Consultation before being finalized.

"As I understand from KPMG our resulting operational or business plan will represent input from everyone at Wabun from leadership, staff and community members. I also want to note that this is an ongoing process in which our priorities will be developed over time. We must also remember the resulting plan will be a living document that is flexible and can accommodate change and growth in the

years to come," commented Executive Director Batise.

News of the passing of Clifford Diamond of Wahgoshig First Nation was announced at the planning session and a planned Annual General Meeting had to be delayed to November 23 so that Wabun participants could attend a memorial service in Wahgoshig. The loss of such a significant contributor to Wabun Tribal Council was felt deeply by everyone at the planning session.

"I want to thank our Wabun Chiefs for their support and direction in developing this planning process and I also want to say Meegwetch to one of our youngest elders, Joyce Wright for opening and closing our sessions with a prayer. Thanks to everyone who has participated so far," said Executive Director Batise.

Arthur Constant of Mattagami First Nation was on hand to represent First Nation youth. He is currently enrolled in an Aboriginal Resource Technician Program at Sault College in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. He expressed his thanks for being included in the process.

"This Strategic Planning Process has given me a great insight into how this type of planning works. I am amazed at all of the incredible experience that has been brought to the table to assist all of us in developing sound planning for Wabun's future," said Constant.



WABUN LEADERSHIP actively took part in the Wabun Strategic Planning Session to discuss Wabun's future. From L-R are: Chief Chad Boissoneau, Mattagami FN; Shawn Batise, Wabun Executive Director; Chief Marilyn Gagnon-Doyle, Brunswick House FN; Chief Roy Meaniss, Beaverhouse FN and Chief Anita Stephens, Chapeau Ojibwe FN.



ENTHUSIASTIC PARTICIPANTS took part in the Wabun Strategic Planning Session. From L-R are: Theresa Menegoes, Chapeau Ojibwe FN, Wayne Grier, KPMG; Shawn Batise, Executive Director, Wabun Tribal Council, Alfred Ojeebah, Wabun Board Chairperson; Gertrude Nolan, Councillor, Matachewan FN and Cindy Giguere, Wabun Community Health Nurse.



PARTICIPANTS of the Wabun Strategic Planning Session took part in discussing Wabun's future. From L-R are: Peggy Claveau, Wabun Assistant Health Director; Arthur Constant, Youth Rep, Mattagami FN; Jean Lemieux, Wabun Health Director; Chief Chad Boissoneau, Mattagami FN; Elder Joyce Wright, Brunswick House FN; Barney Batise, Matachewan FN; Margaret Naveau, Mattagami FN and Cory Restoule, KPMG



DISCUSSION GROUPS were created to discuss Wabun's future goals during the Wabun Strategic Planning Session. From L-R are: Fabian Batise, Matachewan FN; Wayne MacDonald, KPMG; Audrey Allaire, Wabun Secretary, Gloria McKenzie, Councillor, Beaverhouse FN; Therese McLellan, Wabun Community Health Nurse and Christine Vendam, Councillor, Brunswick House FN.



THE WABUN STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION was an informative and beneficial meeting of Wabun leaders and members to discuss the organization's future. From L-R are: Chief Marilyn Gagnon-Doyle, Brunswick House FN, Jason Batise, Economic Development and Technical Services Advisor; Lily Menominee, KPMG Associate; Chief Roy Meaniss, Beaverhouse FN, Darlene Lafontaine, Wabun Financial Advisor and Cecile Wesley, Wabun Community Health Nurse.



FACILITATORS of the Wabun Strategic Planning Session were: Wayne Grier, KPMG; Lily Menominee, KPMG Associate; Cory Restoule, KPMG and Wayne McDonald, KPMG.

NAN Elder Of The Year - Theresa Memegoos



Theresa Memegoos, an elder of Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation, was recently awarded the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) Elder Of The Year Award. She was nominated for this award by Cecile Wesley, Community Health Nurse for Wabun Health Services. The announcement of the NAN Elder Of The Year was made by Helen Cromarty during NAN's Keewaywin Conference which was held in August 2001.

"I was surprised and honoured to be recognized among other respected elders from the

NAN area and to be selected from this group for this award. Helen called to congratulate me for receiving this award and it felt really good to hear the news," said Elder Memegoos.

At 65 years of age, Elder Memegoos is a First Nation Councillor for her community, a position she has held for the past six years.

As a child she lived a traditional lifestyle with her family near the community of Sultan 60 kilometers southeast of Chapleau. She stayed with her family until she was six years of age, when she attended boarding school at St. Joseph's Boarding School in Thunder Bay. She attended this school for twelve years. As a young woman she worked for a fly in hunting camp near Chapleau during the summers. She also held a position for some time at the Chapleau Hospital's kitchen department and was also

employed for five years at the Chapleau Pottery Shop.

In addition, Elder Memegoos completed a Methods of Teaching Language Program from Lakehead University in 1975. She attended this program during the summer months for five years to achieve her teaching certificate and learn about language education. Upon completion of this program she went on to work for six years for the Chapleau Public School and Secondary School as a Native Language teacher. Elder Memegoos has also held positions as a Drug And Alcohol Abuse Counsellor for NAN and as a Native Court Worker for five years assisting First Nation clients from White River to Gogama.

She enjoys being on the land and takes time to go for walks and spend quiet moments in the nearby forest. Until recently, she enjoyed snowshoeing during the wintertime.

"I like being in the bush. I find it very peaceful and calming to spend time on the land. I believe it allows a person to think

positively even when things are difficult. The feeling of walking on the natural earth is good for people," said Elder Memegoos.

She is the mother of two daughters, Joanne Nakogee and Chief of Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation, Anita Memegoos-Stephens. Elder Memegoos also has six grandchildren and enjoys spending time with them. During the 16th Annual Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation PowWow, she took part in a ceremony to bring her youngest granddaughter, 18 month old Emily, into a traditional circle to become a jingle dress dancer.

"I try to spend a lot of time with my family, especially my grandchildren. They are all traditional dancers and I encourage them to follow our people's teachings and culture. It was special this year during our annual gathering when Emily came into the circle to become a jingle dress dancer. I teach and encourage my grandchildren to learn about their culture and be proud of who they are," said Elder Memegoos.

She also teaches other

First Nation people to learn about their heritage.

"The creator instills in us a sense of strength when we come into a spiritual circle. It is a special event and I encourage more First Nation people to take part in these ceremonies," said Elder Memegoos.

She currently lives in Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation, a small community near the town of Chapleau. Elder Memegoos believes that everyone has a part in taking care of young people.

"I see myself as no different from the rest of the community in that we must all take care of our youth. I am happy to be recognized as an elder but I believe that we should all teach and counsel our children. It is very important that we look out for them because they are our future. We must make sure that they are taken care of and provided a good education for a better life," said Elder Memegoos.

She is a First Nation Ojibwe and a member of Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation.

Wabun Health Helps Community Members to Quit Smoking

Wabun Health Services announced the grand prize winners of the Quit Smoking Incentive in September 2001. This was the end of a six-month initiative that was organized by Wabun Health Community Health Nurses (CHN) in Wabun communities.

Winners of the grand prizes of DVD players were Gerald Luke of Mattagami FN, Evelyn Wolfe of Brunswick House FN and Joan Wincikaby of Matachewan FN.

The Quit Smoking Incentive was started in March 2001 to help people stop the habit of smoking. The initiative took place in Wabun First Nations and was open to participants from the community. The Quit Smoking Incentive was organized as a peer support group to help smokers to quit smoking. At the end of every month, members of the group who still did not smoke were able to put their names into a draw to win gift certificates. This monthly draw for prizes increased in value every month over a period of six months and ended with the final draw of a DVD player in September.

An honour system was in place during the Quit Smoking

Incentive but participants also received peer support and encouragement from buddy's or friends assigned to help them stay away from smoking. When a participant won a prize during the monthly draw the buddy or friend was also awarded a gift certificate, in recognition of their assistance.

Therese McLellan, CHN for Mattagami FN coordinated the initiative in this community. She explained that the Quit Smoking Incentive was good for people and that participants were looking forward to another such program in the future.

"I believe that this initiative was a success and helped several people to quit smoking. Some of the people who participated have even considered starting a group on their own to continue supporting their desire to stay away from smoking. We may look at doing this again and consider when would be the best time of year to organize a Quit Smoking Incentive," said McLellan.

Cecille Wesley, CHN organized the initiative in Brunswick House FN. She felt that this was a good program for smoking cessation.

"The Quit Smoking Incentive was a good way to moti-

vate people to get into a self help group to quit smoking. Once they started, the monthly prizes were a great way to motivate people to stay away from smoking during the six month period," said Wesley.

She explained that she even took on the role of a friend of one of the participants during the sixth month period.

In Matachewan, Cindy Giguere, CHN set up a self help group for the Quit Smoking Incentive initiative.

"People were happy to take part in this program. Some of them were unable to stay in the group but others continued until the end of the six month period. Although there was only about a fifty percent success rate in my group it was still a way to get people to think about stopping the habit of smoking," said Giguere.

She noted that it would be good to organize another incentive program like this again in the future.

"This is a good way to help people to stop smoking. When we assist someone to stop the habit of smoking through an initiative like this, they can continue this way of thinking for the rest of their lives," said Giguere.

More On Pro Forma

Continued from Page 4

is willing to negotiate at the community level and to consider all proposed changes. However, it also has the responsibility of conducting such negotiations in a fair and reasonable manner, in accordance with the highest honour of the Crown. First Nation leadership was concerned that this could not be accomplished by the original deadline of September 30.

"I think we all feel a little better now that an extension is in place. This will allow time for us to consult with our First Nations and to identify clauses of interest with the idea of renegotiating," said Jean Lemieux, Wabun Health Director.

The Chiefs of Ontario advised First Nations to consider the following points. To delay local negotiations until official Health Canada reaction to the Ontario First Nation version of the Pro Forma Agreement is made. Health Canada must be held to account for its commitment to negotiate the Pro Forma at the local level, including the consideration of all proposed changes. Negotiations must be consistent with the constitutional fiduciary duty of Canada.

Lemieux pointed out there are two stand alone agreements that are not part of the consolidation of the Pro Forma Agreement. They are the Home and Community Care Program and the Non-Insured Health Benefit Program.

She also added that the Pro Forma Agreement will have an impact on Wabun First Nation communities. One of the changes includes the fact that any surplus at the end of a financial year can not be carried over. Lemieux also noted that there have been changes to clauses in terms of responsibility and liability of Health Canada.

"The Pro Forma Agreement produces many changes that our First Nation leadership must consider and reply to. We really need this time to ensure that the proper consultation has been done and that First Nation proposals for amendments can be considered by Health Canada," said Lemieux.

Wabun Health Services Attends Health Retreat

Wabun Health Services staff members recently took part in a Health Care Worker's Retreat. They attended the event with health workers from Mnaamodzawin Health Services of Sheguiandah First Nation on Manitoulin Island to learn new skills to build better communication and deal with everyday stress in the office environment. The five day event took place August 20 to 24, 2001 at the Inn At The Falls in Bracebridge, Ontario.

The retreat was facilitated by Pamela R. James (Twayah), an Advisory Circle Member and Conference Coordinator for the Native Wellness And Healing Institute. She has twenty years of experience in the Health and Human Services fields and is a consultant and trainer throughout the US and Canada on personal organizational and community healing and growth.

The retreat featured several workshops including: Team Building, Report Writing, Proposal Writing, Communication, Conflict Resolution, Stress Management and Self-Care Planning. The event was attended

by Wabun Health workers: Jean Lemieux, Health Director; Peggy Claveau, Assistant Health Director; Therese McLellan, Community Health Nurse (CHN); Cecile Wesley, CHN; Cindy Giguere, CHN and Paulette McKay, Bookkeeper. There were also Wabun community participants: Therese Memegoos, Elder, Chapleau Ojibwe FN; Susan Collins, Matachewan FN Community Health Representative (CHR); Edna Hanson, National Native Drug and Alcohol Abuse Program (NNADAP) Worker for Matachewan FN and Evelyn Black, NNADAP Worker for Wahgoshig FN. Health Care workers from Mnaamodzawin Health Services included Diane Abotossoway, Health Care Director; Paula Gauthier, Nurse Manager/Educator; Shirley Viney, Registered Nurse; Laraine Hale, Group Facilitator -Aboriginal Healing Foundation and Sandra Pope, Registered Nurse. Genny Jacko, Health Worker, Whitefish FN and Cheri Corbiere, CHR, Shesheganing FN also attended as part of the Mnaamodzawin

Health Services group.

Claveau was responsible for the organization of the retreat for Wabun Health and worked with Hale of the Mnaamodzawin Health Services to develop the event. Claveau explained that the overall retreat was good for everyone who participated and that the facilitator sparked interest in people who took part.

"This is Wabun Health's first health retreat and we hope that we will be able to do this again. In future retreats we can deal with other topics and issues to create a better and more well rounded retreat for everyone," said Claveau.

Jean Lemieux, Health Director for Wabun Health Services was happy to take part in this retreat along with her staff.

"I really got to know the workers better through this retreat. We learned about networking, team building and how to work better with each other. We were also impressed with the facilitator, Pamela James. Even though the political issues she covered related to the United States, where she is from, she was

still able to show us how to apply the same ideas to the situations we have here in Canada," said Lemieux.

She sees this as a positive event for her staff to learn from others and build a better working environment.

"This retreat was great for our staff and I hope that we can turn this into an annual event. During one of our regular board meetings there was a suggestion to create a committee to help prepare for future retreats of this kind," said Lemieux.

Claveau thought the retreat was very informative, grounding and brought the staff members together to learn how to work as a team.

"One of the things I learned through this retreat was in order to be happy we have to feel good ourselves. We talked about many things we already knew but did it together as a group. This was very beneficial and gave the health care workers an opportunity to get to know each other better," said Claveau.

She noted that the new skills learned by staff will not

change people immediately but will help everyone work together better in the future. She stressed that Health Care Workers are always needed and are looked up to for their help 24 hours a day which puts a lot of stress on them. Part of the retreat dealt with this fact and taught that one of the most important facets of health care work is that the people in these positions should take good care of themselves.

"Everyone knows that we all have to work together but this retreat gave us an in-depth look at how to do this. We learned that we have to be flexible, connect positively with people and accept the things we can not change. It was a realization to learn that the people we work with are the ones we spend the most time with during our everyday lives. It reminded us to respect one other and remember our aims and goals in our work. It helped us learn about our coworkers and realize that the people around us are sometimes in the same situations and circumstances as we are," said Claveau.



THE HEALTH CARE WORKERS RETREAT was an informative five day event that all the participants enjoyed. Pictured are all the Health Care Workers from Wabun Health Services and from the Mnaamodzawin Health Services of Sheguiandah First Nation on Manitoulin Island.

A SPECIAL PRESENTATION was made to the Health Care Worker's Retreat Facilitator, Pamela R. James of the Native Wellness and Healing Institute. Here we see Jean Lemieux, Wabun Health Director making the presentation of a Native painting by Betty Lincez, Wabimeguil to James.



Breast Cancer Awareness Promoted

Wabun Health Services is developing a new program with the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation (CBCF) to promote awareness of breast cancer in the communities of Wabun Tribal Council. Wabun Health had submitted a proposal for funding to the CBCF with several goals of increasing breast cancer awareness with an anticipated start date in the fall of 2001 and a completion date in the summer of 2002.

Jean Lemieux, Wabun Health Director sees this as a beneficial program for Wabun's communities.

"It is good to see programs such as this developed for our communities. Not only is this an awareness plan for breast cancer but will provide a general health awareness," said Lemieux.

She noted that Wabun Health applied for the funding through the CBCF after seeing an advertisement calling for applications for funds. Lemieux pointed out that support such as this from the CBCF is very beneficial to all the women of Wabun First Nations.

"Wabun Health is very grateful for the funding we received from Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. Breast Cancer is a very serious concern for all women and we are happy

that we able to provide more help in preventing this disease through the contribution by the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation," explained Lemieux.

The development of the program includes: the promotion of breast cancer awareness through well women workshops facilitated by speakers in each Wabun community to provide appropriate health teachings, assistance for Community Health Nurses (CHN) to obtain up to date information on breast cancer, training of CHNs and Community Health Representatives (CHRs) to act as future well women facilitators, the creation and translation into the Ojibway and/or Cree languages, of culturally appropriate resources and material for both men and women; establishing an outreach program with the Canadian Breast Screening Program at the Timmins and District Hospital and other health professionals as required, facilitating the process of referring possible clients and providing arrangements for transportation coverage to attend the Canadian Breast Screening Program and to obtain certification of CHNs and/or CHRs to conduct breast self examinations on clients.

Wabun Health Services Caring For You - Edna Hanson



**Edna Hanson
NNADAP Worker**

MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION, Ont. - Edna Hanson, National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP) worker for Matachewan First Nation is the featured Wabun Health Staff person for this issue of Wabun Sun. She started her new position on August 13, 2001 and is based at the Matachewan First Nation Community Centre.

Hanson is responsible for the delivery of NNADAP services to clients in the community. Her main goal is the prevention of alcohol and drug abuse and other

forms of addictions. To achieve this aim, she will work closely with the First Nation, Wabun Tribal Council Health department and other Health agencies and organizations. Hanson will also work closely with those in the community currently dealing with alcohol and drug abuse issues to access health services and provide support and assistance.

"As the new NNADAP worker, I want to be available to everyone in the community. I want to be there for those who need the services that are offered through this program. I am here to provide assistance as well as support for those dealing with addictions and who are looking for healthy alternative lifestyles," said Hanson.

She is enjoying her new position and hopes to assist people to lead a healthier way of life by dealing with addictions.

"One of the goals of this program is prevention but it is also designed to assist those who are dealing with addiction in their life.

My role will be to help them deal with these issues in a positive way by assisting them to access programs and services and by building their self-esteem and pride in themselves. This type of work allows me to learn from others. It is a learning experience and the people I help are also the ones who are able to teach me more about the issues they deal with," said Hanson.

She is an experienced health care worker who has been involved in support and counseling services for many years. From 1993 to 2001 she was employed as a Women's Counselor at a shelter for abused women in southern Ontario.

She is a First Nation Ojibway person originally from the town of Matachewan. Hanson is able to speak and understand the Ojibway language and is a member of Matachewan First Nation. She enjoys creating craftwork, listening to music, spending time in the outdoors and keeping in touch with her two sons, Kevin and Randy.

Health Matters



**by Jean Lemieux,
Health Director**

I am very happy that Wabun Tribal Council has embarked on a strategic planning process. One of the important things that has come out of this is the identification of the development of a Mental Health Program as a priority. We have had feedback from our First Nations that some form of mental health program is necessary and now through this exercise we have identified this development as a priority and we will look at proceeding with it. Now that the issue has been brought to the table we will head back to Wabun First Nations to do a needs assessment.

We will be looking at alternative sources of funding to

develop this program with the direction of our Chiefs. It is my hope that part of this development will result in the hiring of a psychologist or a mental health counsellor to head up this initiative. It is necessary that we establish what areas of need that must be targeted through our consultation with our Wabun First Nations. This program could deal with issues such as marriage counselling, family violence and abuse.

I am very optimistic that a Mental Health Program could be realistically developed in a year or so. I am convinced that this program will benefit our Wabun First Nations in many ways. It is my belief that this program will contribute to building healthier communities and assist caregivers, counsellors, leadership and the extended family in providing for a brighter future for coming generations.

Wabun Health will play an important part in spearheading the Mental Health Program as will our Chiefs and of course our community members. The Mental Health Program will require a lot of energy and the dedication of Wabun Health staff in terms of developing this initiative and I look forward to working with everyone to make sure that this becomes a reality.

Wabun Staff Attends Empowerment Conference

Wabun Health Services staff members, Julie McKay and Rose Anne Ojebah, who are both Health Clerks, recently attended the Native Men & Women's Empowerment Conference - 'Finding Your Voice'. The conference was held in Toronto at the Regal Constellation Hotel from September 5 - 7, 2001.

McKay explained that this was a positive experience that taught her a lot of new skills.

"I enjoyed this conference because it taught me to be proud of my culture and heritage. I learned how I can use my Native culture and background to help me through my every day life and at work. The conference helped me to strengthen my communication skills and learn how to deal with the day to day challenges I have to face at work," said McKay.

She also noted that one of the highlights for her was a keynote presentation by Chief Ian Campbell, a 28 year old hereditary Chief of the Squamish Nation in Squamish, British Columbia.

"Chief Campbell's presentation was an inspirational speech that supported the conference's agenda and goals. I also enjoyed taking part in a women's circle which was lead by Bobbi Okeymaw. This was wonderful to take part in and strengthened and encouraged everyone in the group," said McKay.

Ojebah attended several of the workshops during the three-day conference.

"This was a very informative conference that taught new

skills. I got to meet many people who shared their life experiences and taught participants to be proud of our cultural heritage," said Ojebah.

She explained that the main highlights of the conference for her were workshops dedicated to how to advocate for one's self and others.

"The 'Doing Battle With Worms And Crabs In The Bucket' workshop by Billy Rogers was an educational session that dealt with how to strengthen communication skills and work positively with others. This conference was a positive and educational experience with a message of empowerment," said Ojebah.

The conference was developed and organized by the Native Wellness And Healing Institute to encourage participants to make the next step in Native healing and wellness. The conference aimed at teaching participants how to find their voice by encouraging their self confidence and developing their self esteem. This was done through workshops with the objectives of obtaining new skills for empowerment at home, work and in the community; challenging one's self for change and personal growth and how to connect with others in the empowerment journey.

The three day event included a keynote presentation titled, 'Using Our Culture And Tradition In Leadership', by Chief Ian Campbell of the Squamish Nation, North Vancouver BC. Workshops and the presenters at

the conference included: 'Communication - How To Get What You Want' by Sharri Kimberly (Ojibway) B.A., Owner and President, Kimberley Training & Consulting Tecumseh, Ontario; 'Youth Leading Youth' by Amice Johnson (Pottawatomie), Wallaceburg, Ontario; 'Challenging Yourself For Positive Change' by Maureen Meloche (Mohawk) B.A. Director V.I.S.T.A. Kahnawake First Nation, Kahnawake, Quebec; 'Finding Our Voices - Advocacy For Self And Others' by Laraine Hale, M.S.W., Little Current, Ontario; 'Mask Making' by Mickey DeCarlo (Chippewa), Cultural Counsellor, Peterborough, Ontario; 'From Girls To Women - Becoming A Whole' by Bobbi Okeymaw (Yakama) Political Analyst, Samson Cree Nation, Hobbema, Alberta; 'Using Our Culture For Spiritual Strength' by Maurice Nahanee (Squamish), Cultural Teacher, Coquitlam School District, Coquitlam, British Columbia and 'Doing Battle With Worms And Crabs In The Bucket' by Billy Rogers (Kiowa) M.S.P.H., Director, Native Wellness And Healing Institute, Norman, Oklahoma.

There was also a similar conference which was organized by the Native Wellness and Healing Institute in Edmonton Alberta, September 12 - 14, 2001. This second conference followed the same goals and objectives as the one held in Toronto but featured different Native speakers and workshop presenters.

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