



Wabun Sun

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Mattagami FN Specific Land Claim Settled With Government Of Canada

Mattagami First Nation and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) have agreed upon a Specific Land Claim settlement. An official signing off of the settlement is yet to take place. The official signing will be announced in the near future through a joint news release by Mattagami FN and by INAC.

"We are happy to have this issue resolved for our First Nation. The settlement negotiation was a very positive process where everyone at the table worked for an agreement to settle the issues at hand. Our community has been very supportive of our leadership throughout the process and everyone is happy to see a beneficial outcome for our First Nation. The funds that will be realized through this settlement will assist in developing projects concerning housing and infrastructure for our community," said

Chief Chad Boissoneau, who acted as Head Negotiator for the Mattagami FN Specific Land Claim.

After an agreement for the Specific Land Claim had been reached, the First Nation held a referendum to decide on how the settlement should be provided to their community. In April 2004, the First Nation voted in favour of a settlement agreement that would include the creation of a Trust Fund to financially manage the creation of future developments or projects in the community.

This agreement with INAC is part of a broader issue that included an earlier compensation settlement with Ontario Hydro. In 1995, a multi million dollar settlement package was paid to the community for the flooding of First Nation traditional territories caused by the construction of the Mattagami Dam which is

now operated by the provincial company. The Mattagami dam had been constructed several decades ago by another hydro electric company but was later taken over to be used by Ontario Hydro.

The First Nation had grievances about the flooding of their territories for many years but was only able to address these issues in recent decades. The two settlements with the First Nation stemmed from the loss of traditional territories. In 1906, the creation of the Treaty #9 document was presented to the First Nation people living in the Mattagami Lake area and they were given an official land base as part of the treaty agreement. Two decades later in 1921, a power company built a dam on the Mattagami River which flooded parts of the First Nation's land base. The community wanted to be compensated for the flooded land which had

originally been guaranteed to them through the treaty document. In addition, the community successfully argued that there had been mismanagement of resources on First Nation lands when timber surrenders during the 1920s and 1930s involved the issuance of leases for individuals to harvest logs on the community's territories. First Nation Negotiators presented the fact that INAC did not act in the best interest of the community by allowing timber to be harvested on traditional lands.

"The current Chief and Council and past leaders have been involved in this negotiation process for many years. There was a lot of work that had to be done to successfully present our case at the negotiation table. We had a consultant conduct a lot of research through old records and also to establish what timber had been lost by surveying the land that was flood-

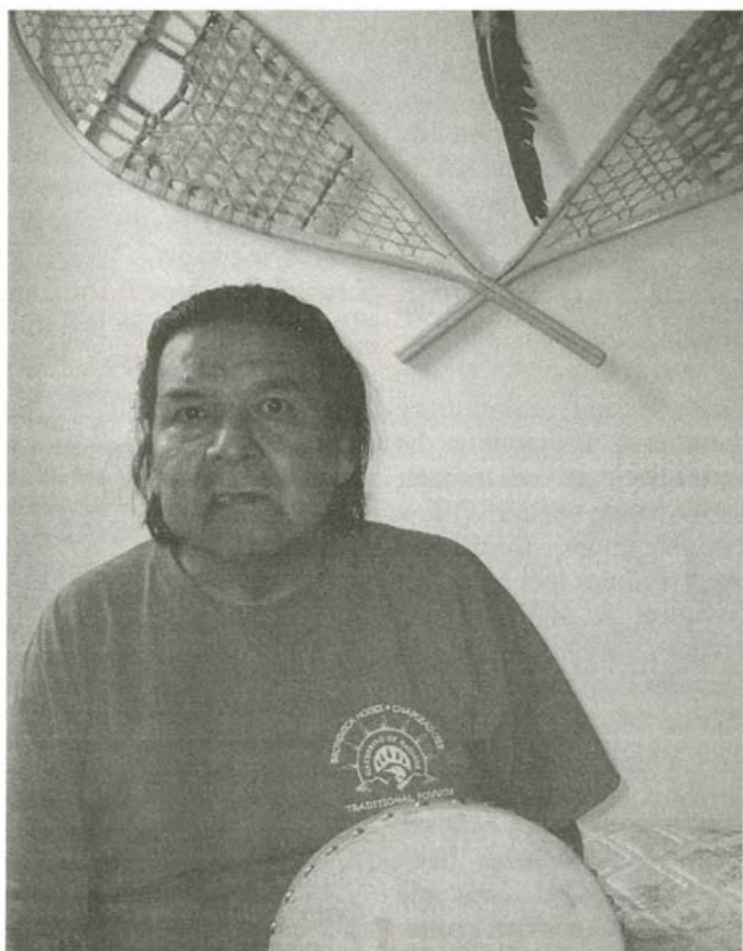


CHIEF CHAD BOISSONEAU

ed. The forest basically had to be virtually reconstructed to find out what timber had originally been part of that land so that we could get an idea of what resources we had lost due to the flooding," said Sue Prince, First Nation Councillor.

She is part of the Negotiations Team as a member of leadership but has been involved in this
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Elder Of The Issue George Endugesick, Brunswick House FN



ELDER GEORGE ENDUGESICK OF BRUNSWICK HOUSE FIRST NATION

Elder George Endugesick is the featured Elder of the Issue for this edition of Wabun Sun. At 62 years of age, he has a great deal of life experience that includes a traditional background and living in a non-Native urban environment in southern Ontario.

Elder Endugesick was born and raised near the original location of Brunswick House FN in what is known as Toffat, a stop on the Canadian Pacific Railway north of Chapleau, Ontario. He grew up on his family's traditional territories and as a young boy attended Toffat day school for a few years.

"The home I grew up in near the original reserve lands in the Chapleau Game Preserve was a good place to live. My brother and I were young children and I remember we had a lot of fun there. There were not

many problems we had to deal with then. It was a quiet life of traditional activities like hunting and trapping," said Elder Endugesick.

Brunswick House FN had been established at New Brunswick House on the northern end of Missinaibi Lake, at a Hudson's Bay trading post that had developed as a community for the Ojibway First Nation people in the area. This community had been established through the creation of Treaty #9 in 1906 but in 1925 the First Nation was displaced when the Chapleau Game Preserve was created. Brunswick House FN then went through a 22 year period without a land base.

As Elder Endugesick grew older, he and his broth-

er Leonard Joseph Endugesick found employment in nearby logging and forestry operations. He also has a sister Catherine (Endugesick) Balis and their parents were David and Anne Endugesick.

Elder George Endugesick worked for several years as a Section man for the Canadian Pacific Railway and was based in Chapleau. In his younger years he was employed by the Ministry of Natural Resources as a Fire Fighter. He also worked for many years in the forestry industry and before his retirement he was employed by White Eagle Logging Company, a forestry company, owned and operated by Brunswick House FN.

As a young man he spent short periods going back to live in his home at Toffat before deciding to go
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Mattagami First Nation Negotiates Land Claim



SUE PRINCE, FN COUNCILLOR

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process since the beginning. When she was elected as Councillor in April 2003, Prince was also involved in a Water Management Process along the Mattagami and Abitibi waterways to record and locate the traditional areas, burial grounds, ceremonial locations and old village sites. This position kept her informed on the developments of the land claim process. The Water Management process was done in preparation for the possible development of future hydro electric projects. In addition, she was the Membership and Lands

Administrator for her community and was involved in the Specific Land Claim process in this position. She was valuable in assisting the Negotiations Team through specific training she received on lands management and policy and procedures with INAC.

"The Land Claim process was very pleasant and everyone worked in a positive atmosphere to get this done. We all worked hard and the negotiations went on efficiently as we had a respect for each other and the positions that one another held. This was good to see as we know of some First Nations have had to deal with these processes for many more years than we did. There were a lot of good people on both sides of the negotiation table who made this happen," said Prince.

In preparation for the final signing of the Specific Land Claim, the Mattagami First Nation Land Claim Trust Fund Committee has been established to ensure that the funds received through the land claim process are financially managed for community projects. Currently the Committee is developing policies and guidelines that will be used in a proposal process for

submitted projects. Seven members have taken positions in the committee to include an Off Reserve representative, a Youth representative, an Elder representative, a non-Reserve representative, two First Nation Councillors and an independent committee member.

Darlene Lafontaine, Financial Advisor at Wabun, became an Independent Committee member when she was asked to join in March 2004. She brings a great deal of knowledge and experience to the committee and will provide financial advice as well as assistance in the development of policies and guidelines. She will also be the co-Chair of the new Committee.

"I am really excited and honoured to be part of this new committee. I look forward to helping the community on this important initiative and I will work to the best of my ability. The negotiations team has done a great job in this process and in creating a positive outcome for the community," said Lafontaine.

Jennifer Constant, First Nation Councillor was happy to see the process completed on a high note for the community and is looking forward to future developments for her First

Nation.

"Our members are happy to see the successful negotiations of the land claim for our community. They are eager to apply for the funds and start new projects and developments. We were also happy to see that our community decided on using this money in a financially responsible way so that we can use it now and for our future generations as well," said Constant.

The community is now looking forward to seeing the final official completion of the Mattagami First Nation Specific Land Claim Settlement with INAC.

"We hope to use the

funds received through the settlement for immediate project development but also for the our youth and generations to come. We want to make it last so that all our members now and in the future can benefit from this. I want to thank our community for being so supportive of our leadership over the years. I also want to thank our Negotiations Team for all their hard work. We are also grateful to past Chiefs and Council members who have been part of this process. It was a community effort and we could not have done it without the help of so many people," said Chief Boissoneau.

Ghislain Jacques, New NNADAP Worker

Wabun Health is happy to welcome Ghislain Jacques to the position of National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention (NNADAP) Worker for Brunswick House First Nation. In his new role he works mainly to counsel anyone in need of support and direction involving addiction concerns. He does this through one on one counselling with individuals. He provides intake and assessment and then directs his client to an appropriate helping agency or treatment centre.

"I am on call seven days a week and 24 hours a day in this job. When there is a crisis in the community I am usually contacted to help out," said Jacques.

Jacques and his wife Lily are involved in learning about the traditional teachings and passing these on to Brunswick House First Nation community members. Previously he and Lily received training in Winnipeg at Red Willow Lodge under traditional teachers Jules and Margaret Lavallee. At the time the Jacques were living in Thunder Bay and they made regular trips over a period of a year to learn all they could about Native Traditional Culture. More recently they have been assisted by Kent Kooshane who is also a traditional teacher. He visits Brunswick House First Nation and assists the

Jacques in discovering more about Native Traditional Culture.

"Lily and I have learned so much from these teachers in areas such as the sweat lodge, sun dance, medicines and teachings in general," said Ghislain Jacques.

As part of the healing in the community he has started a weekly sharing circle where people have the opportunity in a support group to bring up any problem that is bothering them.

He and Lily have erected a Wigwam for use in traditional healing, the sharing circles and other cultural activities.

In addition to his NNADAP Worker role he is also actively involved with Lily trying to get a Teaching Lodge developed for the Treaty 9 area in the historic Brunswick House First Nation original reserve site at Mount Batton.

"Right now I am putting all my energy into this position of NNADAP Worker and assisting people in the community and my longterm plans include developing this much needed Teaching Lodge," said Ghislain Jacques.

He and Lily plan to take children in the community out on the land this summer to learn about medicines and Traditional Teachings. They will be

Elder Of The Issue

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south in 1965 to Toronto. There he learned to live in an urban environment and enrolled in a training program to become a Drug and Alcohol Abuse Counsellor. He worked for three years at the city's Paytaybun Lodge and later in several positions in northern Ontario. He was employed in drug and alcohol abuse counselling by the Sudbury Native Friendship Centre for three years and by his own community for four years.

He believes that an Elder is someone who holds some knowledge of their people's past and passes on the traditions and customs of their culture to future generations.

"Elders are people who provide teachings to young people about traditional customs and knowledge. As Elders our role is

also to set a good example for other young people. I think that we should try to keep our culture alive in young people. Our First Nation language is also important and we should encourage our young people to learn to speak Ojibway," said Elder George Endugesick.

He hopes to see his community continue to develop opportunities for youth to learn about their past and their culture. In addition, he would like to see more employment options for First Nation members and in general the creation of a more positive and healthy environment for his community.

"My message to young people is to encourage them to get all the education they can acquire for their future. It is also equally important that they learn about their past and

not to forget their Native heritage," said Elder George Endugesick.

As an Elder in his community, he is regularly called upon to attend significant community events to provide guidance. In the fall of 2003, Elder George Endugesick suffered a stroke that debilitated him for some time. He is now recovering from his condition in Timmins where he remains close to medical assistance.

Over the years when he was in better health, Elder George Endugesick enjoyed taking part in sports and traditional pursuits such as hunting, fishing and trapping. He is a First Nation Ojibway, who is able to speak his language. His community members and Wabun Tribal Council wishes him a speedy recovery.

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Lily Jacques Assisting In Bringing Traditional Teaching To Brunswick House FN

Lily Jacques, Starbear, Traditional Teacher is helping her community learn about traditional teachings and cultural activities with help and support from Brunswick House First Nation and Wabun Tribal Council. She and her husband Ghislain Jacques have been working in Brunswick House First Nation to provide traditional teachings since 2003.

Lily Jacques and her husband provide a variety of traditional teachings they have learned from other traditional teachers over the years. They are teaching local community members several teachings including traditional medicines, pipe ceremonies, healing methods and teachings for healthy living and for families. In addition, they also teach traditional songs, perform sweat lodge ceremonies, teepee ceremonies and sharing circles.

"We are providing Aboriginal teaching to our community members so that our people can gain a better understanding of their past and who they are. It is also important that we help people heal and help them gain a better understanding of where we come from. Our culture has been lost for many years so it is even

more important to do work to bring back this knowledge to our community," said Lily Jacques.

In June 2004, Lily and Ghislain Jacques attended a Sundance Ceremony along with several Brunswick House FN members in Sagkeeng First Nation near Winnipeg Manitoba as part of their traditional learning experience. The group received funding support from their community and from Wabun to attend the traditional ceremony which was held June 17 to 20, 2004.

"We were grateful for the support that our community and Wabun was able to provide for us. We are also happy for the support Chief Andrew Neshawabin and his Council have given us in our work. We have a large percentage of youth in our community so it is even more important that we provide these teachings and experiences for them," said Lily Jacques.

Earlier in the year, Wabun provided funding assistance for Elder Kent Kooshane to visit the community during a period when two young First Nation members tragically passed on in January. Elder Kooshane is from Sagkeeng

First Nation, in Manitoba and was one of the teachers who trained Lily Jacques in Native traditional customs and ceremonies. While the Elder was in the community to assist in a period of mourning, about 100 people visited him for help.

Lily Jacques is continually passing on traditional knowledge as well as learning new customs and teachings. In the spring, the Ministry of Natural Resources presented the community with an eagle that had died. Lily Jacques accepted the eagle for the community and in early June visited Sagkeeng FN to learn how to perform a ceremony to free the spirit of the eagle.

She is also working on developing a teaching lodge to provide traditional teachings to more First Nation people. Recently, she and Ghislain acquired two trailers from the MNR at Mount Batton, the original location of Brunswick House FN, for use as a location for the creation of a teaching lodge. Lily Jacques explained that there are many healing lodges to help people but that there are no teaching lodges to educate people in traditional customs and ceremonies.

"We provided a



LILY AND GHISLAIN JACQUES ARE WORKING IN HARMONY TO PROVIDE TRADITIONAL TEACHINGS IN BRUNSWICK HOUSE FN.

teaching lodge last year but could only use a teepee where we could accommodate five people to train in traditional ceremonies. We need a teaching lodge so that we will be able to work with more families and individuals in the future. This will allow us to help more people lead healthier lives," said Lily Jacques.

Jacques is a member of Brunswick House FN and is also a First Nation Councillor for her community. She was elected to her first term as Councillor in August 2003. She started her training in Aboriginal ceremonies and practices in 2001, when she received encouragement from her Chief and Council to learn traditional teachings in Manitoba. Wabun Tribal Council sponsored her for this training and Mamom-

Wichi-Hetiwin Employment & Training also assisted her to acquire her traditional knowledge. She was taught at the Red Willow Lodge in Anola, Manitoba east of Winnipeg. She received her training from trainers Jules and Margaret Lavallee and Elder Kent Kooshane. In May 2003, Lily Jacques received funding support from MAMO, as a traditional teacher in an Aboriginal Spiritual Wisdom Program for her community.

She is a member of Brunswick House FN. Lily and Ghislain Jacques have two sons Daniel and Joshua. She is hoping to continue teaching in her community and work towards the goal of establishing a teaching lodge in the First Nation to serve the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) area.

Ghislain Jacques, New NNADAP Worker

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going back to the land in a traditional manner and the intent is to stay in teepees, fish and spend some quality time together.

Currently Ghislain Jacques is a member of the Blind River Treatment Centre Board Of Directors. Previously he was employed at the Ka-Na-Chi-Hih Treatment Centre in Thunder Bay where he assisted in providing one on one counselling and shared teachings with clients. Before all that he was employed by G&E Martel & Son Lumber in

Chapleau for 14 years. He was injured on the job and as a result returned to school at Confederation College in Thunder Bay for upgrading. At that time he began to be interested in Traditional Teachings and Native Culture.

"I have learned that we all must think about the welfare of our children in regards to the teachings of the seven generations. That is why I am so interested in learning as much as I can about Native Culture and sharing it with young people," said Jacques.

Mervyn Buffalo Working To Develop Awareness On Learning Disabilities

Mervyn (Merv) Buffalo is working with Native and non-Native families in northern Ontario to promote awareness and gather support for young people diagnosed with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or related conditions. The Matachewan First Nation member is working with others to establish support groups for families and interact with medical professionals and health care representatives to address issues dealing with how medical assistance and diagnosis are provided for children diagnosed with ADHD or Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD).

"We are trying to help people become aware of these conditions in our children. One of our goals is to work with educational, medical and legal systems to address the needs of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children who need professional help to receive a good education," said Buffalo.

He became involved in this field when he started raising his grandson who has been diagnosed with ADHD. He took an early retirement from his work at Kidd Creek mine to spend more time taking care of his grandson. Buffalo had to advocate for his grandson so that he would receive an education with the aid of professional assistance.

"I feel that it is important that my grandson gets the best possible chance for a good education. Even with a disability to learn, education is his right. Sometimes it can become difficult to advocate for your child's

welfare in terms of medical conditions in complicated organizations like the education system or medical and legal agencies. This is why we have established support groups for parents because many people find it hard to advocate for their children and feel intimidated when dealing with educational or legal systems. Our group is open to anyone, Native or non-Native, so that we can help these parents and let them know that they are not alone," said Buffalo.

He has done his own research and education in ADD/ADHD to try to better understand his grandson's condition and to work with the education system. The support groups that Buffalo and other families have established allow other parents to access the information he and others have gathered on ADD/ADHD. In addition, Buffalo has sought the help of Native and non-Native medical and legal professionals as well as a psychologist to help in his efforts to find out more about ADD/ADHD.

He explained that one of his goals is to find out if there is a link between ADHD/ADD and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS), Fetal Alcohol Effects (FAE) or Fetal Alcohol Disorders (FAD).

"It is difficult to find out for sure if a child is suffering from Fetal Alcohol Syndrome or its related conditions. Currently, parents have to send their children to Toronto for a proper diagnosis for FAS so it is difficult for most families to find out. So if a child has been diagnosed with

ADHD/ADD, there is little that is done to find out if there is an underlying condition like FAS. This is a major concern as an improper diagnosis can lead to the wrong medication which can make a child's condition worse," said Buffalo.

He hopes that his efforts will lead to more funding for increased educational assistance for children like his grandson.

"It is important to make people aware of these conditions as it can have a great affect on a child's education as they grow up. One of my concerns is the number of Aboriginal students who have a hard time in school and eventually drop out. We have to address these issues and find out if there are underlying causes such as FAS," said Buffalo.

In addition, he wants to raise awareness on FAS, FAE and FAD.

"We have to teach our young people more about conditions like FAS. It is discouraging to see statistics such as the fact that 75 percent of pregnancies are not planned and that 50 percent of this group don't know if they are pregnant until several weeks later. We have to teach people that it is not only the responsibility of the mother but the male partner as well to know about the danger of alcohol use during pregnancy," said Buffalo.

Anyone wanting to know more about ADHD or FAS and FAE can contact their Community Health Nurse through their local First Nation Health Clinic.

Wahgoshig FN Youth Experience Traditional Pow Wow In Albuquerque, New Mexico

Wahgoshig First Nation members received assistance to attend the Gathering Of Nations Pow Wow in Albuquerque, New Mexico, which took place from April 22 to 25, 2004. The cultural trip was funded through the assistance of the Wahgoshig FN Healing

Lodge, Mamo-Wichi-Hetiwin Employment & Training, Abitibi-Consolidated and Wabun Tribal Council. The Wahgoshig Anishinabek Mitik Incorporated (WAMI) Corporation, the community's forestry corporation, also provided

funds.

"We wanted to re-establish some cultural understanding for our youth by giving them the opportunity of attending a major First Nation event. The youth who attended were happy to have taken part and it has helped to develop an interest in cultural activities such as drumming and dancing," said Ginger Nadon, Youth Representative and Community Health Representative for Wahgoshig FN.

Eleven community members took part in the trip. They were Ashley Singer, Kelsie Chookomoolin, Patrick Chookomoolin, Tess Matthews, Kara Trembley, Charlie Black, Lindy Black, AJ Sutherland, Kyle O'Rourke, Dave Morris and Jesse Mallette. They were accompanied by Nadon, Chris Sackaney, Native Education Assistant at Iroquois Falls Secondary School and Bonnie Sackaney, Healing Lodge Coordinator Assistant. The youth and their chaperones actually left to fly to Albuquerque, New Mexico on April 22 and were back on April 27.

They attended the four day Pow Wow, which is known as one of the world's largest Aboriginal Pow Wows, in the city of Albuquerque. Many other Native groups, traditional people and visitors attend the event in large numbers on an annual basis. While at the Pow Wow, the Wahgoshig youth were able to meet and talk to traditional people who were members of the Eyabay Drum group, one of a few major performing groups at the event. In addition, they saw a live eagle, named Spirit. The eagle has been part of the major Aboriginal event for the past four years. After the Pow Wow, the Wahgoshig group also had the opportunity to visit and explore the city of Albuquerque before returning to Canada.

"This was the first trip outside Canada for these young people and it was a great experience for them. I don't think they will ever forget this trip because they are still talking about it. The drum group performers we met were special for some of our young people who are already part of a drum group, called the Ghost



WAHGOSHIG FN YOUTH ENJOYED A TRADITIONAL EXPERIENCE WHEN THEY TRAVELED TO ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO TO ATTEND A MAJOR NORTH AMERICAN POW WOW.

Mountain Singers, in our community. After the trip they wanted to take part in traditional activities more and now they are practising their drumming every night," said Nadon.

She and Chris Sackaney organized the trip for their community and gathered the funds required. Nadon explained that the work they had to do was done on short notice but was made successful through the support and assistance of the funding organizations and businesses.

"People thought we could not pull together the

funds and organize everything in time to attend the event. We kept working on it knowing that we this was something we wanted to give to our youth. We are grateful for the support that we were given," said Nadon.

As Youth Representative, she works closely with youth in the community to organize regular activities and events. As well she develops cultural and traditional projects and programs for local young people. Nadon has been working in this position for the past five years.

Ojibway Translations By Elder George Endugesick

Here are some useful Ojibway words and phrases with translation into English. We thank Elder George Endugesick, of Brunswick House First Nation for supplying Wabun Sun with this knowledge of the language. AH-NEE - How are you?, ASH-WEH GAH-BAH-YAH-N - Where are you from?, MEE-NOO GEE-SHEE-GET - It is a good / nice day, KEE-CHEE KAH-MOO-WEE-N - It is raining a lot, SOO-POON - It is snowing.

Juanita Luke Of Mattagami FN Wins LifeFest Contest

The promotion of Healthy Lifestyles was the focus of a LifeFest contest which was held by Wabun Health Services for its six member communities. The contest was held in February 2004. The winner of the contest, Juanita Luke of Mattagami First Nation, was awarded an all expense paid trip to take part in the LifeFest Conference which was held in Toronto on March 12, 13 and 14, 2004.

"We decided to run this contest as a way to help Wabun members by providing an incentive for people to develop a more a healthy lifestyle. I had read about the LifeFest Conference taking place in Toronto and presented the idea to the other Community Health Nurses and we agreed to develop a contest to send someone to the event. We have been working hard at promoting healthy lifestyles for some time now as a preventative measure and we thought that this would be a great way to help people change some part of their lives to benefit their health," said Therese Manilla, Community Health Nurse for Mattagami First Nation.

The contest rules were developed by the CHNs at Wabun Health. The contest required that contestants submit a 250 word essay as to what they have done to motivate others to a better lifestyle such as establishing walking or exercise programs. Manilla explained that contestants were not judged on their ability to write but rather on what they have done in the past to help others improve their health. Entries were judged by three CHNs: Manilla, Cindy Giguere, CHN for Matachewan FN and Wahgoshig FN and Cecile Wesley, CHN for Chapleau Ojibwe FN and Brunswick House FN.

Giguere accompanied contest winner Luke to Toronto and they attended the conference together. Giguere explained that in

addition to accompanying the winner she had the opportunity to gather information to add to resource material at Wabun Health.

"This was an excellent event to attend. There was plenty of information on how to make lifestyle changes such as dieting, exercise and coping with stress. We also learned about other forms of exercise and relaxation to reduce stress such as yoga," said Giguere.

They attended presentations which were conducted through booth displays by various businesses, health care organizations and agencies. In addition, they had the opportunity to listen to high profile speakers such as Queen Noor of Jordan, who did a presentation on stress management and Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York, who spoke about managing family responsibilities.

LifeFest Contest Winner Luke is the Finance Clerk for Mattagami FN. She was grateful to be able to attend the LifeFest Conference in Toronto to gain more knowledge about current methods of keeping a healthy lifestyle as well as learning alternative ways of exercising, managing stress and dieting.

"I was happy to be able to take part in the LifeFest Conference. I wanted to collect as much information as I could through the many demonstrations and presentations so that I could have resources for myself and for friends back home. Fitness education was one of the main areas I enjoyed learning about. One of the most inspirational moments of the conference for me was attending a presentation by Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York who talked about how we could bring about healthy changes in our lives. I thank Wabun Health for putting on this contest and providing an opportunity for a community member to attend this event," said Luke.

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