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NAPS Detachment Developed In Matachewan First Nation

A Nisnawbe-Aski Police Services (NAPS) detachment will begin operations in Matachewan First Nation this summer. The detachment is planned to be constructed and in operation by June. The new building will be located in the commercial property section of a new subdivision that has been created by the First Nation. A home is also being provided by the community in the subdivision to serve as a residence for the officer who will work at the new detachment.

"We are happy to establish a NAPS detachment in our community. The new facility will create additional opportunities for our community. Any First Nation would be happy to have this news as a new Police office comes

with additional spinoffs for our community members. As a community, we are also showing our support by providing housing for the officer that will work at the new detachment," said Chief Fabian Batise.

He added that the new NAPS detachment building will add to community pride.

"I believe that a new building for our police office will provide something positive for everyone to see in terms of how we are developing as a community. The new building will be easily recognized by our members. We are happy to have gone the direction of constructing a building designated for NAPs rather than having a separate small office inside our administration building. In addition, we would be bet-

ter able to deal with local issues rather than to see someone taken away from our community to be detained in another town," said Chief Batise.

Chief Batise is a member of the Police Services Board for NAPS. He added that this is a positive development towards the goal of providing up to date and safe standards for police officers and community members.

"We have worked to create the same detachment criteria for our communities as those serviced by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP). Right now we do not have those standards but as we move forward and develop projects such as the establishment of new detachments we are better able to provide space and safety for our officers. The Matachewan NAPS detach-

ment will have one officer that will service the local First Nation as well as provide assistance when needed by nearby Kirkland Lake OPP, the town of Matachewan and Wahgoshig First Nation. The new detachment was chosen in consultation with NAPS operations personnel and the Police Services Board. Primary concern was focused on communities that did not have close and available access to a police service. Matachewan FN received police assistance from the Kirkland Lake OPP which gave the community the distinction of being one of the farthest away communities from a police service. Matachewan FN is also centrally located between Cochrane, North Bay and Sudbury, which gives NAPS services the opportunity to provide more

efficient prisoner escort to southern correctional facilities.

The creation of a new detachment is part of a NAPS organization plan to provide nine new detachment buildings for First Nations in the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) area. During negotiations in 2004 with the federal government, NAPS administrators and their Police Services Board were able to acquire minor capital to construct new buildings to existing detachments as well as to establish new service areas during this fiscal year. New NAPS detachments buildings were provided for the First Nations of Kashechewan, Deer Lake, North Spirit Lake, Mishogogaming, Constance Lake, Matachewan, Kasibonika, Sandy Lake and Summer Beaver.

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Wabun Coordinates Training And Employment Services



PEGGY CLAVEAU, ASSISTANT HEALTH DIRECTOR / PROGRAM MANAGER, WABUN TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

tion covered.

As part of the program delivery change, the decision making process for project approval for clients or organizations has now been handed to the individual Wabun First Nations. Each First Nation has been given the option as to how to set up the approval process in their communities. Approvals for individual projects now rests with First Nation Chief and Council based on recommendations by the community Economic Development Officers. Previously under MAMO, the decision making process was conducted by a Board of Directors that represented the two Tribal Councils, as well as other representative groups including Native Women, On-Reserve/Off Reserve individuals and Youth.

Wabun Training and Employment Services is being coordinated by Peggy Claveau, Wabun Health Services Assistant Health Director and now also the Program Manager for Wabun Training and

Employment Services.

"The training and employment program is essentially the same as before under MAMO. Funding is still being provided through to our First Nations with the only difference being the approval process. Our Wabun First Nations now have the choice as to how to set up the decision making process for training and employment projects. When they make their decisions, we process the application to make sure all the program criteria and eligibility requirements are met for funding. First Nation Chief and Councils will handle approvals for the individual First Nations," said Claveau.

She explained that the new process is centered on the First Nation providing funding approval for clients and community projects. The process starts with an application for project development or client assistance to the First Nation. The application is then reviewed for approval. Once approval is provided,

the application is then forwarded to Wabun Training and Employment Services to ensure that all program criteria and eligibility requirements are met.

"We are here to coordinate and deliver the training and employment program to our First

Nations. Wabun Training and Employment Services is not set up to provide approval for projects. Approval for project development or for individual clients is provided by our First Nations," said Claveau.

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Treaty 9 Commemoration

Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) will be commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the signing of the James Bay Treaty No. 9 beginning July 12, 2005 in Mishkeegogamang (Osnaburg) First Nation. Fifteen NAN First Nations will be taking part in commemoration ceremonies from July to August to mark the 100th anniversary of First Nations that signed onto the Treaty 9 document in 1905.

Wabun Tribal Council will recognize the occasion of the 1905 sign-

ing but will mark the 100th anniversary of the Treaty 9 signing in 2006. The first community in the Wabun First Nation territory to sign the Treaty 9 document was the Abitibi First Nation people, now known as Wahgoshig First Nation on June 7, 1906. Other Wabun First Nations that signed later in 1906 were the First Nations of Matachewan on June 20; Mattagami on July 7 and Brunswick House on July 25.

Announcements on these commemoration ceremonies will be made in the new year.

First Nation Policing Comes To Matachewan FN

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Wes Luloff, Chief of Police, for NAPS, explained that the new detachment buildings in the nine NAN communities are part of a development his organization has been working on for many years. Luloff oversees the operation of the NAPS organization and reports to the Police Services Board which provides direction and guidance.

We have been working with government to upgrade existing services and buildings as well as to expand the number of detachments in the NAN area. Eighty percent of our existing buildings are not up to standards. The new Matachewan FN detachment will also provide essential police services to the community. We have always had a working relationship with the OPP but

when our officers have to travel two hours at a time from Kirkland Lake to work in Matachewan FN, it takes away from our ability to help. In addition, Matachewan FN's central location will make it possible for us to save our officer's time while conducting prisoner transportation," said Luloff.

The new buildings are prefabricated structures that will house offices and detention centres. Each of the structures have a modular design which means that the size of the buildings can be custom designed to suit the needs of the community. They are constructed to meet provincial and federal standards and will include technological features such as prison cell cameras and allow for better computerized management and administration.

In addition, four

First Nations received assistance to provide extensive building renovations to existing NAPS detachments to bring them up to standards. These First Nations were Lansdowne, Sachigo, Cat Lake and Webequie.

In 2006, NAPS will be acquiring more funds to provide renovations and delivery of new buildings for six to nine First Nations.

"By this time next year we will have roughly 20 new buildings or buildings that have been upgraded to standards. This is compared to last year when we had no new developments for our communities. The goals we have accomplished have been a long time coming. I want to thank our NAN Chiefs for the assistance they have given us in the lobbying of government to help us provide the best service we can for our people," said Luloff.

Chief Fabian Batise A Major Force In Developments At Matachewan First Nation



CHIEF FABIAN BATISE, MATACHEWAN FN

Fabian Batise is the new Chief of Matachewan First Nation. Chief Batise was elected to lead his First Nation during local elections in March 2005.

He brings a lot of experience as a First Nations Manager and as someone who has been involved in mining and resource development and management with Native and non-Native organizations. He is qualified in providing contract management and has taken part in negotiations processes with his community in past. Prior to taking the position of Chief, he worked as Band Manager for his community for 12 years. In this position, Chief Batise took an active part in community development as First Nation Council liaison and in a managerial role to oversee local projects and programs. In addition, he held the position of First Nation Councillor for three terms.

Before moving back to his home community in 1992, he worked with Indian and Northern

Affairs as a Mining Technologist for ten years and was based in Toronto and Ottawa. He also worked for Detour Lake Mines as a Miner before suffering a serious accident that caused him to change career plans. After the accident, Chief Batise decided to upgrade his education by attending Nipissing University in North Bay for two and half years where he studied in a Sociology Program.

He is proud of the accomplishments that he has participated in for Matachewan First Nation.

"The first project I remember taking part in when I started working for our community was the development of a new phone system. Another project we were all happy to accomplish was the creation of a new administration building. I believe this development was important for the future of our community as it allows us to better organize and continue program delivery for our First Nation," said Chief Batise.

He also explained that the community has established a 20-year capital plan to act as a guide for future development. To date, the plan has helped the community develop a new subdivision and water treatment plant. In addition, he is working with his Council to try to establish economic opportunities and more community services for Matachewan First Nation.

"My new role as Chief is a great learning experience for me. I have been able to see the community develop and I have learned how our First Nation

works through my position as Band Manager. Now I am able to take that knowledge and work with other regional political organizations to affect change for our community and for others in a positive way. I want to continue our progress and keep up the developments that have taken place in our First Nation," said Chief Batise.

He added that he is looking forward to the challenges during his term as Chief over the next two years.

"I am happy to be able to serve our community and take part in developing projects to serve the different facets of the social and well being of our members. In my other roles in community administration it has been rewarding to see all the work we have done in the past. This past experience has made me more willing to move forward and do more for our people," said Chief Batise.

He has also taken an active role in First Nation organizations in the past through positions that included Board Member for the Kuuwanimano Child and Family Services board in Timmins. Currently he is a member of the Police Services Board for the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Services (NAPS) organization.

At 45 years of age, Chief Batise is married to Aline Batise and they both reside in Matachewan FN. They have a daughter Christine and three sons Robert, David and Jordan. Chief Batise is a First Nation Ojibway person and is a member of Matachewan FN.

Reflections

By Shawn Batise, Executive Director



As you will note in this issue of Wabun Sun there is an article that deals with Employment and Training Services. Matawa First Nations Management made a decision to deliver Training and Employment Services to its communities months ago. That decision resulted in the retiring of Mamo-Wichi-Hetiwin Employment & Training. In turn, these events resulted in Wabun Tribal Council having to also take over delivery of these services for Wabun First Nations.

In fact this development has had a negative impact on our communities. When MAMO administered the employment and training funds the process was based on a first come first served basis with further attention dealing with the quality of the project or program and benefits to the First Nation Community. MAMO had considerable funds at their disposal. Now that the agency has disbanded we are left with a limited amount of funding that has to be spread among our Wabun First Nations. The available dollars are now in fact distributed for access based on population as required by Human Resources And Skills Development Canada (HRSDC). That means that ultimately our opportunities for funding employment and training projects has diminished.

These employment and training dollars are very important to our First Nations as they create opportunities for people to make a living. Although things are changing our communities still don't have many employment opportunities for their members. In addition, as opportunities arise in the forestry and mining sectors we need to be able to train our people for any positions opening up on or near our First Nations. In an effort to lessen the

impact of all this, Wabun Tribal Council has taken over the delivery of these services with the assistance of existing staff. In addition we are providing a more grass roots process which is driven from the community level. We have decided that our Wabun First Nations will be responsible for the approvals of projects and programs dealing with employment and training. So anyone wanting to develop a project should contact their local Economic Development Officer (EDO).

Here at Wabun Tribal Council we will administrate and track the funds in terms of making sure applications for funding meet the criteria of the HRSDC. The first point of contact to develop applications has to be with the Wabun First Nation. We encourage Wabun communities and individuals to consider innovative programs and projects that result in meaningful employment and training for people. Those considering applying should also think about building partnerships as a way to further access finances.

All in all we would have preferred to stay with MAMO and conduct business as usual but we have had to adapt and very quickly put in place a means to deliver employment and training services to our Wabun First Nations. This is a one-year trial period and we will see how things progress. The current funding levels from the HRSDC are set for the next five years. At this point we are eager to see some high quality and creative applications approved by our First Nations. We are also asking for patience and flexibility from all concerned as we develop with this new responsibility. I was very much a part of MAMO's development over the years with my participation as MAMO Board Chair and a member of the Board of Directors. I am committed to making sure that our Wabun First Nations have access to funds for employment and training. In this light we have put a process together that should be successful if we all work together. Let's get started and produce programs that put our people to work.

Wahgoshig First Nation Hosts Spring Star Lodge Ceremony

Wahgoshig First Nation recently hosted the Spring Star Lodge Ceremony for community members and traditional people. The traditional ceremony was a week long event that took place from May 18 to 24 in Wahgoshig FN.

The ceremony was held to honour different groups of people and the environment. The first day was held for children, the second for youth, the third for adults and Elders and the fourth day for the earth. Throughout this period traditional people and Elders provided teachings and healing sessions for participants. Each day saw different Elders and traditional people performing numerous ceremonies and teachings depending on their background and training.

Every morning was started at four a.m. to prepare for the day. At 10:30 a.m. through to four p.m. teaching and healing sessions were performed. A Feast For The Ancestors was held on the third day of events and on the final day a last mountain ceremony was performed. A closing feast and give away was also held for everyone.

The event took place

in the community and was organized by Liz Babin, Star Lodge and Education Officer, who oversees the First Nations Education and Early Years Program. She was assisted by traditional people Joseph Matthews, Bear Lodge; Bernadette Morris, Lodge; Bear Babin, Pipe Carrier; Shirley Nadon, Pipe Carrier; June Black, Pipe Carrier; Martin Millen, Pipe Carrier; Nisa Diamond, Pipe Carrier and volunteers Centennial Archibald and Marcel Matthews. Lorraine Chokomolin provided support through her role in organizing children to attend the children's sweat lodge ceremony.

The event included Geraldo Barrios, a traditional Mayan Elder from Guatemala. Other visiting Elders included Langford Ogeemah, Traditional Healer from Kenora; Joey Paul, Traditional Healer from Redbank New Brunswick; Matt McGee, a Peruvian Traditional Teacher and Donna Augustine, of Big Crow First Nation, New Brunswick who performed the Feast For The Ancestors. In addition, there was a group of pipe carriers, traditional dancers, sweat lodge holders

and teachers from Six Nations and Walpole Island in southern Ontario.

"We were happy to see the participation of a visiting Mayan Elder. He is a traditional person who is traveling the world to support those of us who are trying to keep the old traditions and ceremonies alive," said Liz Babin.

She explained that community members were happy with the fact that some Traditional Healers and Teachers decided to stay after the event was over to continue performing healing and teaching sessions for local people.

"We are all thankful for the traditional people and Elders that came to take part in this ceremonial period. This is very meaningful to our community and I want to say Meegwetch to all the organizations and individual people who made this possible," said Liz Babin.

There was a great

deal of preparation that took place before the main ceremonies. Liz Babin along with other local traditional people performed a mountain pipe ceremony the day before anything was started. They worked together to ensure that enough traditional food was available to host a feast on the last day of ceremonies. In addition, they also organized fundraising events leading up to the event to pay for travel expenses for visiting Elders.

The Spring Star Lodge Ceremony was made possible through the support of Wabun Tribal Council Health Services, Algonquin Lands and Resources, Matachewan First Nation and Wahgoshig First Nation through their Building Brighter Futures program and Community Health Representative program.

Wahgoshig First Nation has hosted these traditional events in the past. In



**LIZ BABIN,
EDUCATION OFFICER,
WAHGOSHIG FN**

fact the community provides four days during each season to conduct traditional ceremonies. The traditional ceremonies were started through the help of SueAnn Robinson, a traditional person who taught Liz Babin the teachings and ceremonies that are performed during this event. This year's Spring Star Lodge Ceremony was special due to the number of Elders and traditional people who took part.

Wabun Hires Crisis Team Coordinator / Intervention Worker

Wabun Tribal Council Health Services has hired Michael B. Archer as the new Crisis Team Coordinator/Intervention Worker. He will start employment on June 6, 2005. He will work under the direction of the Health Director and as a priority, the Crisis Team Coordinator/Crisis Intervention Worker will work to reduce the impact of suicide and family violence through supporting individuals through crisis situations. This will be done through support of training, coordination and services of the volunteer Crisis Team and developing team policies and protocols. Archer will also be responsible for submitting the annual proposal, monitoring the team, keeping statistics, and reporting to Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN)/Aboriginal Healing & Wellness Strategy (AHWS).

The Crisis Team Coordinator/Intervention Worker will oversee the community Crisis Team activities including: assisting the First Nations in recruiting team members and maintaining the team; assisting the First Nations in developing policies and protocols for all aspects of team operations and organizing the team to respond to crisis and other community safety, security and family support situations. In addition, the Crisis Team Coordinator/Intervention Worker will work with the Crisis Team members to document all work done by team in crisis

events, all services provided by the crisis team, activities held and training held. He will also assist the communities in the purchase of crisis team equipment and ensure equipment policies/protocols are in place and updated.

The Crisis Team Coordinator/Intervention Worker will also ensure any person or persons going through any crisis situations who need counselling or support receive this service from Crisis Team Coordinator, crisis team members or other service providers. He will track all clientele who receive crisis support to ensure they get referrals, follow-up, other services as needed. In addition he will document all clients seen as part of crisis team duty.

The new Crisis Team Coordinator/Intervention Worker will ensure and assist the First Nations that a crisis team, crisis response and emergency plan or protocol is in place and updated at least on an annual basis. He will assist First Nations in developing and submitting annual crisis team submissions, quarterly reports and final reports as required by NAN/AHWS, assist and train the First Nations with Crisis Team budget submissions to NAN/AHWS and attend NAN Crisis Team Coordinator Training.

The responsibilities of the new position also include ensuring all crisis team mem-

bers receive training in First Aid/CPR, other crisis related training as appropriate (such as crisis intervention training), train other workers and community members as needed and organize and document these training sessions. He will organize regular team meetings in each First Nation, organize workshops, meet with Chief and Council and meet with other service providers/emergency organizations (related to the crisis team work as needed) and organize and deliver community presentations on issues relating to safety, suicide prevention, traditional family values and family violence prevention as needed.

Some of the qualifications listed in the search to fill this position include: Diploma social work or equivalent, teamwork skills, Communication Skills, Peer Helping Skills, the ability to plan community crisis/emergency response teams, the ability to organize workers in crisis situations, the capacity to complete reporting requirements and to plan and implement community events and training events. In addition the worker will have to be able to develop and present informal presentations.

"We are excited about being able to develop this position and we fully realize that in these times it is necessary for our Wabun communities to be brought up to date in every way in terms of crisis management," said Jean Lemieux, Health Director, Wabun Health Services.

Marilyn Tangie Attends PSW Training



**MARILYN TANGIE,
REFERRAL CLERK /
COORDINATOR, HOME AND
COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM,
BRUNSWICK HOUSE FN**

Marilyn Tangie, of Brunswick House First Nation, is attending training to become a certified Personal Support Worker (PSW). She is attending her training in Fox Lake (Chapleau Cree) FN along with other health care workers from the community. The PSW training program is being provided by the Ontario Community Services Association and is led by trainer Tracy Martin, a Community Health Nurse for Fox Lake (Chapleau Cree) FN. The training started in April 2005 and will finish in August.

"This is a very intense program and we are learning a lot through our trainer. I am happy with the

skills that I am learning and I hope to successfully complete this training to add to my experience," said Tangie.

The trainees have covered several areas including modules on interpersonal skills, identifying abuse, WHMIS and home management and meal preparation. They will be participating in theory based training for the first part of their program and then will move on to hands on training before finishing. Their hands on training will begin in June and will include job placements at the Chapleau Hospital's Long Term Care Unit. To complete their training, the trainees will have to complete a provincial examination. Successful completion of this exam will qualify them to work as certified PSWs in their communities or in any other Native or non-Native community or facility.

Tangie is still continuing her work as Referral Clerk for Brunswick House FN and Coordinator for the Home and Community Care Program in her community.

"I am benefiting greatly by taking part in this program to become a PSW. I work with Personal Support (CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Jennifer Constant And Julie Brousseau Heading To Iceland Marathon



JULIE BROUSSEAU, HEALTH CLERK, WABUN HEALTH SERVICES

Wabun Tribal Council members, Julie Brousseau and Jennifer Constant, are supporting the Canadian Diabetes Association as participants of the organization's Team Diabetes Canada. Team Diabetes Canada is a fundraising initiative produced by the Canadian Diabetes Association to raise money for diabetes research, education, serv-

ice and advocacy. Members of Team Canada commit to raising a baseline amount in support of the Canadian Diabetes Association. In return, the association provides support and benefits to help members participate in running or walking in world-class international events.

Constant and Brousseau are planning on attending the Reykjavik Marathon, in Iceland on August 20, 2005. Several marathon distance events are planned and both Wabun members are hoping to take part in the 20 kilometer marathon. They will be the only Aboriginal participants to take part in the event along with other members of Team Diabetes Canada from the Timmins area. Constant, Regional Governance Co-ordinator for the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation Governance Process in

the Wabun area and First Nation Councillor for Mattagami First Nation, is hoping to bring more attention to the issue of diabetes in the Aboriginal community.

"Diabetes is a disease that affects a high percentage of First Nation people. I have friends and family who are coping with this disease. I have a personal goal in completing the marathon event but I also want to educate people on this disease and to raise money for the Canadian Diabetes Association. Diabetes is an epidemic in the Aboriginal community and we have to focus on raising more awareness of this disease," said Constant.

Brousseau, who is the Health Clerk for Wabun Members at Wabun Health Services, explained that she is happy to be supporting the asso-

ciation.

"It is important to support groups such as the Canadian Diabetes Association and to promote healthy lifestyles. This is also an important event for me. It has been a life changing decision as my commitment has allowed me to become more active. The training is making me feel better health wise and I also feel good about supporting a worthy cause," said Brousseau.

The two women are currently raising funds to take part in the event. To date they have received support from Wabun Tribal Council Health Services, Mattagami First Nation, Moose Cree Housing Authority and other businesses and organizations in the Timmins area.

Team Diabetes Canada is a nation-wide fundraising program to support diabetes research and education through participation in international sporting and adventure events. Team Diabetes Canada allows participants from all walks of life to take part in a challenge while at the same time raising funds for a worthwhile cause. The association estimates that 70 percent of participants are first time marathoners.

Approximately 60 cents of every dollar raised to meet the baseline amount to take part in sporting events, goes to support



JENNIFER CONSTANT, REGIONAL GOVERNANCE COORDINATOR, NAN GOVERNANCE PROCESS / MATTAGAMI FN

the Canadian Diabetes Association. In addition, the association reports that many members raise funds beyond their goal. To date, Team Diabetes Canada has generated more than \$4.5 million since its inception in 1999. For more information on Team Diabetes Canada, you can follow the links through the Canadian Diabetes Association website at www.diabetes.ca

Those who want to support Team Diabetes Canada through Constant or Brousseau can contact Jennifer Constant at Mattagami FN at 1-888-236-5352 or by Cell Phone at 705-665-6558 or by email jconstant@wabun.on.ca

Employment And Training Developments

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Her main role will be to oversee and manage the program's budget and provide regular reporting through Mamonuskomitowin to the federal funding body, Human Resources And Skills Development Canada (HRSDC). Mamonuskomitowin, is the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement (AHRDA) for First Nations in northeastern and is headed by Mike Miller, Coordinator. Wabun Training and Employment Services processes all the applications from the communities and relevant information is entered into a database that allows Wabun Training and Employment Services to print essential contracts and generate regular reports. Audrey Allaire, Executive Assistant will act as Data Entry Clerk while Wabun's Financial department will handle the financial aspects of the program.

"As part of Wabun now administering the training and employment program, we are using existing Wabun Staff as a cost cutting measure. This will allow us to keep administration costs down to provide our First Nations with more funds to generate more training and employment projects," said Claveau

She explained that the program budget is determined on the basis of population. Currently, the training and employment program has a five-year agreement with HRSDC but with funding separated equally over each year to ensure adequate resources are available throughout the agreement period.

Claveau added that the Wabun Training and Employment Services program is currently going through a developmental phase.

"This is a new program for our Tribal Council and we are going through a learning process. However, I have a lot of good resource people to help me through this initial period," said Claveau.

She is working closely with Mike Miller, who is the Coordinator of Mamonuskomitowin. In addition, she is able to turn to Shawn Batise, Wabun Executive Director who was involved with MAMO as Board member and Board Chair for many years and Darlene Lafontaine, Wabun Financial Advisor, who worked at one point with MAMO as Executive Director.

Claveau encourages First Nations to take advantage of training and employment opportunities.



AUDREY ALLAIRE, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL

"We can help our First Nation members access training and employment opportunities. One of the areas that is looked favorably on is partnerships, whether it is with other First Nations or in the private sector," said Claveau.

She is working to develop closer ties to each First Nation's Economic Development Officer (EDO). In April 2005, she met with EDOs from each community over a two-week period to explain the new changes that have taken place regarding the training and employment program. In addition, she is planning on bringing together Wabun First Nation EDOs for a general meeting to further discuss the recent development of Wabun Training and Employment Services.

"This is our first year of providing this service to our First Nations. I hope to meet with our First Nations again at the end of the fiscal year in March 2006 to review our progress and find out exactly what our community needs are," said Claveau.

For more information, First Nation clients or organizations seeking funding assistance for training or employment projects should contact their First Nations. They can speak to their Economic Development Officers (EDO) or their Chief and Council for assistance in developing project ideas.

Wabun Health Staff Addresses Diabetes



THERESE MANNILA, COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSE, WABUN HEALTH SERVICES

Therese Mannila, Community Health Nurse for Mattagami First Nation, is working towards becoming a Certified Diabetes Educator. She will have to successfully complete the Canadian Diabetes Association Diabetic Educator Certification examination in order to achieve this goal. The examination is provided by the Canadian Diabetes Association and will take place on May 28, 2005.

"This certification is an extra step I am taking for my professional development. There is a lot of preparation and study in order to take the exam

but if I am successful it will be worth it," said Mannila.

In order to take part in the examination, she had to be a qualified Diabetic Educator. Mannila and Community Health Nurses Cindy Giguere and Cecile Wesley, are qualified as Diabetic Educators. They have all completed the Diabetic Educator Diploma through a correspondence program which was offered by Cambrian College. The program provided the three nurses with the necessary and the most up to date skills and knowledge concerning all aspects of diabetes education.

Mannila explained that the Canadian Diabetes Association Diabetic Educator Certification examination is an additional step she is taking in her training as a Diabetes Educator. The examination provides five years of certification before individuals have to rewrite it again. Diabetes is a major health issue in First Nations.

Marilyn Tangie Attends PSW Training

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3) Workers in our community as part of the Home and Community Care Program and now I have more knowledge on how to better deliver this service for our members," said Tangie.

She plans on working for her community after her PSW training. Tangie added that this training has raised her interest to work in health services and as a result she hopes to continue to add more experience and knowledge for herself in the health care field.

Tangie has worked for her community as Referral

Clerk and Coordinator of the Home and Community Care program since 2003. As part of the Home and Community Care program, she works closely with the Elders Complex in Brunswick House FN. Tangie, who is a member of Brunswick House FN, has experience in office administration from her time living in Toronto. She has took computer training in Sault College in Sault Ste. Marie.

She resides in her home community and has four children Eric, 10; Tyson, 7; Cole, 5 and two year old Tanner.

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