



# Wabun Sun

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## Flying Post First Nation Joins Wabun Tribal Council



**CHIEF MURRAY RAY,  
FLYING POST FIRST NATION**

have been Chief of our community for many years and I have watched how this tribal council has developed and worked for their First Nations. The leaders of this council are good and knowledgeable people. Our community can only see great things for the future in joining Wabun Tribal Council," said Chief Ray.

He explained that the small size of Flying Post FN with a membership of 161 people means that the community does not have the necessary human and administrative resources to move ahead with many types of development.

"It was only natural to join Wabun as our land areas are close together. As a part of a tribal council, we can also rely on the support of the Chiefs and Councils of Wabun communities. They also have a wealth of experience and knowledge to share," said Chief Ray.

Most of their First Nation members are located near Nipigon but others live in different parts of the country. The actual Flying Post

FN reserve lands are located north-west of Timmins, Ontario along the Ground Hog River about an hour north of Malette Road just outside the city.

Chief and Council is in the process of searching for possible uses for their treaty lands. Their plans include the creation of economic development opportunities for their members. First Nation leadership is keeping in mind that their members have been part of the forestry sector workforce for many years. They are considering the possibility of using their experience and human resources in forestry to develop natural resource based opportunities on their traditional territories.

"At this point in time, we are working with the federal government of Canada to look at our options on how we can use our treaty lands to our advantage. We are just starting this process but our main focus is to find the best situation and one that most benefits our members," said Chief Ray.

Members of Flying Post

FN do not currently live actively year round on their reserve lands but they do hold full status with their First Nation. These First Nation members currently reside in Nipigon and surrounding communities. Reserve lands were first established between the government and First Nation people in Northern Ontario through the signing of the Treaty #9 document in 1905 and 1906 and later additional adhesions in 1929 and 1930. In 1906, Flying Post lands were identified in a Schedule Of Reserves, in the Treaty #9 document and listed the First Nation lands as follows In the province of Ontario, commencing at a point half a mile south of Six-Mile Rapids, on the east side of Ground Hog River, thence south a distance of four miles, and of sufficient depth to give an area of twenty-three square miles.

Chief Ray explained that the original signing of the Treaty #9 document with his people included many discrepancies that came out of miscommunication. In the summers of 1905 and 1906

during the signing Treaty #9, Chief Black Ice the first recognized Chief of Flying Post FN, had been informed of the treaty making process while his people were living near Groundhog River. However, at the time, the Canadian government did not fully appreciate the nomadic lifestyle of the Ojibway and Cree people of northern Ontario. So, when the document was signed, lands were set aside according to where the people happened to be located at that moment. Chief Black Ice and his people were then given a tract of land near Timmins as part of the treaty. Soon after the signing, most of the First Nation people of Flying Post FN who had signed onto Treaty #9, found out they did not want the treaty lands they were given due to the poor location of the lands set aside. It was at this point that members of Flying Post FN including Chief Black Ice later became members of other nearby First Nations. Some members moved to different **(CONT ON PAGE 3)**

## Wabun First Nations Move Ahead With Partnership in Power Projects



Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation and Brunswick House First Nation leaders announced February 15, 2007 the signing of an Agreement in Principal with Hydromega, a waterpower company based in Montreal Quebec. This agreement means the formation of a formal business partnership to develop major power projects.

This new partnership is the culmination of several years of development and negotiations among the two First Nations, Wabun Tribal Council, Hydromega and the Ministry of Natural Resources. The partnership will see the creation of three waterpower projects and four powerhouses on Old Woman Falls, Big Beaver Falls and White Otter Falls along the Kapuskasing River. This \$70 million dollar development will produce a total of 20 megawatts of power in run of the river, low environmen-

tal impact power generation.

Chief Anita Stephens, Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation considers this power project as a long term investment for her community.

"We are gathered here today to celebrate the first of what I hope will be many results of working together in sharing the resources of the land. This is a precedent and it will lead the way for other First Nations," said Chief Stephens.

In signing this agreement, Chief Andrew Neshawabin, Brunswick House First Nation explained that his community is eager to benefit from any employment and revenue generation that will come through this power generation project.

"For too many years we have been excluded from resource development. This project with Hydromega will help us in terms of our

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**A SIGNING CEREMONY HAS RESULTED IN THE CREATION OF A NEW PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO WABUN FIRST NATIONS OF BRUNSWICK HOUSE AND CHAPLEAU OJIBWE AND HYDROMEGA SERVICES INC. CEREMONY PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED: BACK ROW FROM L-R: SHAWN BATISE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL; DENIS BROUARD, PROJECT MANAGER, HYDROMEGA; JEAN PIERRE LEPAGE, VICE PRESIDENT, DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION, HYDROMEGA; BOB JOHNSTON, DISTRICT MANAGER CHAPLEAU, MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES; STEPHANE BOYER, PROJECT MANAGER, HYDROMEGA; COUNCILLOR AND ELDER THERESA MEMEGOES, CHAPLEAU OJIBWE FIRST NATION AND COUNCILLOR LEONA PANAMICK, CHAPLEAU OJIBWE FN. FRONT ROW FROM L-R: CHIEF ANDREW NESHAWABIN, BRUNSWICK HOUSE FN; JACKY CERCEAU, PRESIDENT-DIRECTOR GENERAL, HYDROMEGA AND CHIEF ANITA STEPHENS, CHAPLEAU OJIBWE FIRST NATION.**

# Elder Valerie Bull of Flying Post First Nation Is Featured Elder

Valerie Bull, Elder and First Nation Counsellor for Flying Post First Nation is the featured Elder of the Issue for this edition of Wabun Sun. She is a First Nation Ojibway person and a member of Flying Post First Nation. Elder Bull has been an active member in the development of her First Nation through her work as First Nation Councillor for the past 12 years. In the absence of the Chief, she also acts as community representative for Chief and Council.

Elder Bull was born and raised in Nipigon Ontario. She has spent most of her lifetime in the town of Nipigon where she worked for the Royal Bank for 25 years as Manager of the local branch. During her tenure at the Royal Bank, she attended numerous company related training programs. In August 1999, she left work on disability caused by a chronic injury she sustained as a young girl. Although she has a lighter work schedule, Elder Bull is able to provide more support for her community leadership as a First Nation Councillor.

In the fall of 2006, she

was invited by Deputy Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, of Nishnawbe-Aski Nation to become an Elder representative for a committee that is part of the Aboriginal Healing And Wellness Strategy. The Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy (AHWS) is a policy and service initiative where Aboriginal people and the Government of Ontario have partnered together in a strategy to promote health and healing among Aboriginal people. For the past five years, Elder Bull has also held the position of Native representative for the Board of Directors of the Nipigon District Memorial Hospital. In this position she ensures that the concerns and needs of First Nation patients are addressed and looked after.

She is hopeful for the future development of Flying Post First Nation and the development of their First Nation lands.

"We are in a unique situation as historically our people originally were given a tract of land where we no longer live. Our people now live in Nipigon but our lands lie near the city of Timmins. Nipigon and the surrounding

area is where our people put down their roots generations ago," said Elder Bull.

She explained that their people are now open to developing opportunities on their treaty lands to benefit their First Nation.

"We are looking at our options for the future and we want to be able to create opportunities in business, training and even employment for our members on our treaty lands. Our focus is for our youth and their education but also for the wellbeing and care of our Elders," said Elder Bull.

The community has now become part of the Wabun Tribal Council. Elder Bull explained that she is happy to see her community joining with the tribal council.

"We have watched Wabun Tribal Council for many years and we were impressed with the way they conducted themselves. This new partnership has really made us more aware of our First Nation lands and the opportunities we can access," said Elder Bull.

In her community, she encourages youth to take advantage of opportunities in education.

"In this day in age, there is no way around it, we all have to keep learning and our youth have to stay in school. Gone are days when you could leave high school and work for a living with little education. There are incredible opportunities today if you have an education and are willing to lead a life of constant learning," said Elder Bull.

As part of Flying Post First Nation's community development, Elder Bull added that she is working with leadership to encourage the creation of Native language programs and the teaching of traditional culture to youth and community

members.

Her family originally lived in an area called Gurnie located between Nipigon and Schrieber, in Northern Ontario. This was where most of the families of Flying Post FN resided and followed a traditional nomadic lifestyle.

In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, traditional craft work and gardening. Elder Bull and her husband Randy have been married for 34 years and they have a daughter Vanessa and a son Jaime. She and her family enjoy spending time together at their camp on Firehill just outside the town of Nipigon.

## Mattagami FN and Matachewan FN Elections Feature Leadership Change



**CHIEF ELENORE HENDRIX, MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION**

electd at Mattagami First Nation include: James Naveau, Leonard Naveau Sr., Gerald Luke and Jennifer Constant.

In Matachewan First Nation Elenore Hendrix was returned as Chief of the community, March 10. She takes over the Chief position from Fabean Batisse who did much for the community while sitting as Chief. This is a return for Chief Hendrix in that she held the Chief position in the

past. She also has experience in council with committees and in education. Councillors elected in Matachewan First Nation include: Alfred Batisse, Darren Landry, Elaine Daley, Gertrude Nolin and Leonil Boucher.

Wabun Tribal Council congratulates all those who were successful in the recent elections and gives thanks to all those who have served their First Nation in the past term.

Mattagami First Nation elected Walter Naveau as Chief on April 10. He has been actively involved with his community over the years and has much experience with various committee and council work. Much of his work has had to do with assisting Mattagami First Nation in areas of social services. He is also very supportive of traditional teachings and culture. He takes over as Chief from Willis McKay who served his community well as Chief of Mattagami. Councillors



**NEWLY ELECTED CHIEF WALTER NAVEAU (LEFT) RECEIVES A GIFT FROM FORMER CHIEF WILLIS MCKAY (RIGHT) DURING THE TREATY #9 COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES IN MATTAGAMI IN JUNE 2006.**

## Reflections



**SHAWN BATISE**

Wabun Tribal Council is proud to welcome Flying Post First Nation to the Wabun family. With the addition of Flying Post the tribal council has expanded to seven First Nation communities. This is the proverbial win/win situation. Flying Post First Nation and its 161 members will benefit from the expertise and efforts of the Wabun administration staff in many ways while at the same time our organization on the whole becomes stronger.

We welcome Chief Murray Ray of Flying Post First Nation to our leadership group which is comprised of all of the Chiefs of Wabun Tribal Council. We will work together with Chief Ray, his First Nation council and his membership to assist in developing Flying Post First Nation in terms of establishing short and long term goals and realizing the dreams of the community.

Our staff here at Wabun have years of experience in lobbying with First Nation government, the Federal Government, Provincial Government and the private sector. The Wabun team also has expertise in project development as well as technical experience in many areas having to do with community, economic and infra-

structure development. We are happy to assist Flying Post First Nation in meeting its goals.

Flying Post has a large land mass of more than 26 square miles near Timmins and consideration is being given as to how this Treaty granted land will be developed. Currently the First Nation members are mostly based in and around Nipigon but interest is very high these days in terms of making things happen on the original First Nation land. There are all kinds of opportunities for the people of Flying Post First Nation and these could very well include participation in resource development on and around the First Nation. Obviously, Wabun Tribal Council's success in resource development partnerships and initiatives will prove to be very beneficial to Flying Post in the future.

All of our Wabun First Nations have a lot in common with Flying Post as we are Ojibwe for the most part and our cultures and traditions go hand in hand. We are First Nation neighbours in that we are close in proximity to each other and we have as First Nation members experienced the hardship of living in poverty while non Native communities prospered over the past 100 years.

With that old adage of Strength In Numbers, in mind, the Chiefs of Wabun Tribal Council, myself, Wabun staff members and Wabun First Nation community members welcome the people of Flying Post to our family. We look forward to and we are open to the active participation of governments at all levels and the private sector, as the people of Flying Post First Nation work towards making their dreams come true.

# Mike Archer Facilitates Communication Workshop



**MIKE ARCHER, CRISIS TEAM COORDINATOR, WABUN HEALTH**

and in Brunswick House First Nation on March 29. The workshop is open to all of Wabun's First Nations but it is only provided in the communities by invitation from that First Nation.

The two day workshop is designed for anyone from the community including front line workers, health care workers, parents, adults and teenagers. Each day of the workshop includes interactive presentations and activities with participants working with the facilitator and learning from each other.

"This training is ideal for our communities as it helps individuals learn how to communicate, understand and connect to others around them. This is also a very hands-on type of training which I and others in our communities are more com-

fortable with. We learn best in an environment where we are active and working directly with others instead of sitting at a desk to study as individuals," said Archer.

The workshop includes pairing participants with other members of the group to take part in games of trust and communication. There are also group exercises and team activities to learn how to work together as a whole. This also includes learning to communicate and listen to others to deal with situations with family, friends or co workers.

"This is a very useful and practical workshop for everyone as people can take the things they learn into all parts of their lives. The skills they pick up are meant to deal with crisis situations but they can use these same skills for creating better family relationships or learning to work with oth-

ers in the community," said Archer.

Mike Archer, Crisis Team Coordinator received certification as a peer support trainer when he graduated from a training course on November 24, 2006. This certified training course was provided by Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) as a five day workshop to certify participants as instructors in peer support training. The training, which was provided to 16 participants from the NAN territory, was facilitated by Stan Wesley, a level three certified trainer. This training featured learning about communication skills, road blocks to communication, emphatic listening - understanding feelings and question skills.

"This training was very instructive as it taught us the skills we need to be able to communicate with others in a

meaningful way. It was very insightful as we learned about the power of certain words and how we are affected by positive or negative feedback. The training also gave us the opportunity to look at ourselves and to question whether we put our values before others when we are helping individuals. It was really beneficial as the skills we learned gave us a better understanding about how we can help one another," said Archer.

The training also included learning about the process of decision making and problem solving and ethics, referrals and confidentiality. Many activities were performed during this training to help make it memorable as well as to provide experience and ideas for participants to pass on this training to others.

# Diane Tookenay A Positive Force For Wabun First Nations



**DIANE TOOKENAY, BRUNSWICK HOUSE FIRST NATION**

Wabun Health to find ways to help the community of Brunswick House FN. In December 2006, Tookenay and Lemieux met with Brunswick House FN Chief Andrew Neshawabin and his Council to discuss the issue of prescription drug abuse.

"We had a preliminary assessment of the situation during this meeting. One of the first suggestions that was made by local leadership was that they wanted a solution that would include cultural and traditional teachings," said Tookenay.

Following this meeting, Wabun Health with the help of Tookenay, was able to secure funding to start the process of helping the community to address their concerns. In late January 2007, using the newly accessed funding, Brunswick House FN hosted a Team Building and Cultural Education Workshop to help create a strategy on how support services would be implemented during a crisis situation in the community. The workshop was facilitated by Billy Rogers, member of the Kiowa Nation in the American Midwest. He is a recognized First Nation trainer and speaker.

During the month of January, Tookenay also assisted Lemieux in accessing additional funding from Health Canada for Wabun Health and Brunswick House FN. Fortunately, for Wabun communities, due to the nature of funding requirements the

focus of attention for assistance not only highlighted Brunswick House FN but also included all of Wabun's First Nations. This new funding was made available for the development of crisis response initiatives and Wabun Health is currently in the planning stages to provide support and training to their communities and health care workers.

"This second source of funding came about in a very short time frame. The proposal for funding and narrative text was actually put together in one day. If it were not for the support of NAN leadership, the NAN Executive Council and the help of key people such as Carol Rowland we would not have been able to access this funding on such short notice," said Tookenay.

She is now in the process of working with Wabun Health to access additional funding that is being made available through the Anglican Church of Canada under the organization's Indigenous Healing Fund. Tookenay explained that Brunswick House First Nation leadership is looking at using these funds to develop a youth camp that can be based at the community's First Nation lands at Mount Batton. So far, the First Nation has supported this initiative by contributing their own resources for construction and road building and the use of a building that was supplied by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

"The Anglican Church has been mandated to support the needs of First Nation cultural healing because of what took place during the residential school era. From what our older generation lost in this process we now have the opportunity so that our youth can have a chance to return to cultural teachings. It is important that we help our people in their physical health and their mental well being," said Tookenay.

In terms of her education, Tookenay has acquired her Masters in Public Administration and a Degree in Business. Tookenay credits her success and opportunities in education to support and encouragement from her community.

"I have always had strong support from my community, so at a personal level it was important for me to be able to give back to my First Nation. It is critical for us to be able to remember where we come from and to give back to our community when the need arises," said Tookenay.

She is a member of Brunswick House FN. During the last century Brunswick House First Nation was moved several times by the Federal government as a result of the Chapleau Game Reserve. Her great grandparents and relatives from this generation lived in Mount Batton, the final land base that was provided to the members of Brunswick House FN.

## Flying Post First Nation Looking To Future

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traditional areas and later became part of other First Nations in northern Ontario.

For several decades, Flying Post FN was forgotten and most of the original membership joined established and larger First Nations. In the 1960s, Flying Post First Nation members began to organize themselves during the formation of First Nation political organizations such as Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN). During this period they re-established themselves as a First Nation

entity and elected a Chief and Council to represent their people.

Currently, Flying Post First Nation is led by Chief Murray Ray and Councillors Roy Ray, Bob McLeod, Lynn Ray and Elder Valerie Bull. The First Nation administration office is located in the town of Nipigon, Ontario. Flying Post First Nation administration can be contacted by mail at: 33 First Street East P.O. Box 1027 Nipigon, Ontario P0T 2J0 OR by phone at: 807-887-3071 OR by fax at: 807-887-1138

# Wahgoshig First Nation Hosts Traditional Gathering In Timmins

Wahgoshig First Nation will be hosting the The Eagle and Condor, symposium of international indigenous culture and heritage. The event will feature a symposium featuring speakers from different indigenous groups on May 28 and 29 at Northern College in Timmins. A Traditional Gathering will also run from May 27 to 31 with traditional ceremonial events held on the last two days in Wahgoshig First Nation. As part of the event, four Elders from different indigenous cultural backgrounds are being invited to make presentations and share their knowledge. These Elders are Mayan Elder Don Alejandro Perez Oxlaj; Dene Elder Bessa Blondin; Sioux Elder Orville Looking Horse and Alaskan Elder Larry Mercurieff.

The event, which is hosted by Wahgoshig First Nation Education Services, is being organized by event coordinators Elizabeth Babin, Martin Millen and Roberta O'Martin. The coordinators are also being assisted by Christina Gingras, a local volunteer youth who is producing promotional materials for the event. To date, the event is being sponsored and supported by Wabun Tribal Council, Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre and Northern College South Porcupine.

Coordinators are hoping to attract students and youth to participate but the event is open to anyone with an interest in traditional Native culture and understanding. The event has been organized to

provide awareness in traditional values to individuals who are involved in organizations, groups or political entities, both Native and non-Native. These include educators, counsellors, spiritual and traditional leaders and individuals working for entities such as environmental groups, tribal councils, First Nation organizations and provincial and federal government ministries. In addition, the symposium hopes to bring attention to environmental issues for professionals working in resource management areas in forestry, mining and hydroelectric production and ecological fields such as wildlife research and the study of ecosystems.

Elders supported by traditional people will take part in several ceremonies over the course of the week. A sacred fire will be lit and it will be kept alive for the five days. Daily ceremonial events with Elders and traditional people will allow invited participants to learn about Indigenous healing and teachings. The symposium portion of the event will be held at the Northern College auditorium and it will feature Elders making presentations to teach and share their traditional knowledge to youth and the public.

Mayan Elder Don Alejandro Perez Oxlaj, is a recognized Elder from the Mayan culture of Central America. He was born into the culture and heritage of

traditional healing and customs from his ancestry of Mayan Medicine people and he is known as Wakatel Utiw (Wandering Wolf) to traditional people. He is president of the National Mayan Council of Elders in Guatemala, an organization that represents 23 ethnic Mayan groups and he was instrumental in creating the reunion of Indigenous Elders and Priests of the Americas.

Dene Elder Be,Sha Blondin has represented traditional Aboriginal awareness at the level of the United Nations. She will make presentations at the symposium on the current state of the environment and how ceremony can assist in the earth, s healing.

Sioux Elder Orville Looking Horse is the 19th decendent of the keeper of the White Buffalo Calf Pipe Bundle, which has been passed down through 19 generations. Elder Looking Horse is spiritual leader of the Lakota, Dakota and Nakota peoples. He holds an honorary Doctorate from the University of South Dakota and as a public speaker, his presentations advocate peace, the environment and native rights issues. He has received several awards for his work, including the Wolf Award of Canada for his dedicated work for peace.

Alaskan Elder Larry Mercurieff, has over 35 years of experience serving his people, the Aleuts of the Pribilof Islands and other

indigenous people throughout Alaska in numerous leadership positions. He has worked in various prominent positions that addressed environmental, ecological and First Nations issues. In addition, he has had his writings featured in several publications and he has received awards for his work. Currently, he is Deputy Director of the Alaska Native Science Commission on a volunteer basis and he also works as an independent consultant.

For more information about the event or registration inquiries, please contact Wahgoshig First Nation Education Services by phone at 705-273-1065 or 705-273-2055; by contacting Martin Millen at 705-273-1050 or by his email at firestarter4812@yahoo.ca; or by contacting Roberta O Martin (705) 567- 9291 ext: 626 Regular updates on the event can also be found on the internet at <http://www.wahgoshig.firstnationschools.ca>

## Mattagami FN Marketing Environmentally Friendly Cleaning Products.

Mattagami First Nation is marketing unique environmental cleaning products through Lords & Partners. This is a Canadian manufacturer and supplier of environmentally responsible industrial cleaning products. The First Nation has invested in the company to market the company's products in Northern Ontario.

"We are always looking for economic development opportunities for our community. After seeing what this company had to offer, their products and philosophy of environmental responsibility fit well with our own beliefs and goals. We are always dealing with issues that affect the land and our traditional territories and investing in this company has helped us to address these concerns," said Jennifer Constant, First Nation Councillor for Mattagami First Nation.

Lords & Partners Limited manufactures and supplies environmentally responsible solvents, cleaners and specialty products that do not fall under specialized hazardous workplace chemical standards. The company was founded in 1990 to address the concern of the use of chemical cleaners and solvents that are used for industrial, commercial and institutional applications and require government regulation, human safety standards and environmental protection measures. The company manufactures over 100 products. Eleven of these products are certified with Environment Canada, s EcoLogo standard, a national government service that certi-

fies environmentally preferable products and services.

"There are many mining, forestry and industrial activities throughout First Nation territories all over northern Ontario. We invested in Lords & Partners to address the environmental concerns these resource based activities cause and at the same time create an economic opportunity for our First Nation. As First Nation people we have a special relationship with the land, so it feels good that in making these products available we are ensuring the protection of the environment," said Constant.

These products can be used in a variety of commercial and public settings including automotive, aviation, government, industry, institutions, marine, mining, oil exploration, pulp and paper and transportation.

For more information on these products, you can contact Mattagami First Nation at 705-894-2072

## HydroMega Signs With Wabun First Nations

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future goals in project development, housing projects and advancing our First Nation for our future generations," said Chief Neshawabin.

Hydromega will construct and develop the power generating facilities.

"I feel very good about this project as it is a great example of what a First Nation and non-Native company can do together in the spirit of cooperation to assure long term benefits for everyone," said Jacky Cerceau, President-Director General, Hydromega Services Inc.

Wabun Tribal Council has had a prominent role in the development of this partnership. The council worked with the Ministry of Natural

Resources in the creation of a Waterpower Site Release and Development Review Policy with the foresight that potential development would take place on Wabun First Nation territories. The new policy which was established in 2004 by the provincial government includes a requirement for potential waterpower developers to contact First Nations whenever development will affect First Nation territories. The council also worked with its two member First Nations to establish a partnership with Hydromega on the development of waterpower projects on the Kapuskasing River.

"In Wabun Tribal Council's history in dealing with resource based develop-

ment companies this is the first time we have established a true partnership that provides a fair deal for our First Nations," said Shawn Batise, Executive Director, Wabun Tribal Council.

The next step for the development of the Kapuskasing Waterpower projects will be the formation of a legal partnership which will include an initial minority ownership for the two First Nations. As part of a Memorandum Of Understanding that was signed by the two First Nations and Hydromega, the communities will have the opportunity to increase ownership as their investment in the project grows.

### Wabun Sun



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