



April 2021
Ziisbaakdoke Giizis
Maple Syrup Moon

THE REZOUND

Spring Has Sprung in WRFN



The Easter Bunny paid a visit to Shawanosowe School students on April 1, 2021. He was sure to keep social distancing measures in mind while delivering easter baskets.

It has just been over a year since the shadow of COVID-19 first became a part of our daily lives. Well much has changed, the welcome sign of the Easter Bunny reminds us all that we can still shine.

"A Place of Visions and Dreams"

Health Manager - Angela Shawanda

Congratulations to Whitefish River First Nations community residents who received their first and second COVID-19 Vaccine. Also, a CHI-MI-IGWETCH to our Health Centre Staff and our partners Mnaamodzawin and Noojmowin-Teg Health Care providers, Giiwednong Health Link, and Emergency Medical Staff for coming together and delivering a successful COVID-19 vaccination clinics.

Whitefish River First Nation was one of the initial First Nation communities to get the COVID-19 Vaccine into the arms of Whitefish River community members. The COVID-19 Vaccines were administered on March 5th, 2021 to 96 citizens with a second dose being given on March 31, 2021. Another round of the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine was also given to 119 WRFN citizens on March 29th, 2021. A total of 206 persons were vaccinated. The next Mass Vaccination clinic will be held on April 12, 2021, and all WRFN citizens are encouraged to call the Health Centre.

It is very important that at least 75% of WRFN population gets vaccinated so that we achieve "Herd Immunity". Herd Immunity is when a large population is vaccinated or vaccinated which resists the spread of disease due to a high number of individuals being immune to the disease. The more people vaccinated is essential in protecting our most vulnerable population. If you have not been vaccinated for COVID-19, please call the Health Centre to register for the vaccine.

For all citizens of WRFN, we ask that you continue to take all necessary precautions so we keep our community COVID-19 free. Continue to wear a 3-ply mask, wash your hands, use hand sanitizer, practice cough etiquette, physical distance 6 feet apart and stay home. If you want to register for the COVID-19 vaccine, or if you have any questions regarding COVID-19 call the Health Centre Monday to Friday from 830am to 430pm. Note we are closed during lunch from 1200 noon-100pm.

Mental Health and Addictions Worker - Micheal Aelick

Aanii, The Mental Health and Addictions Program has been doing some upgrading and training. I continue to take the Mental Health and Addiction program through Canadore College, provided through Zoom by FNTI. Some of the other training and workshops I attended are as follows: Let's Talk Cannabis, Dealing with Difficult Behaviors, Motivational Interviewing, How to Provide Services Through Technologies, and Restoring Healthy Communities Through Harm Reduction Strategies.

Some Health Centre staff received training from Public Health Sudbury to carry and distribute Naloxone. Naloxone is an opioid antagonist. Meaning it will rapidly reverse an opioid overdose. We will be informing the community shortly when the Naloxone kits and training to administer the kits will be available at the Health Centre.

We also continue to partner with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health to bring Staged Screening and Assessment training to the Health Centre. When this training is complete, the Health Centre will have three screening tools and one assessment tool. All treatment centres in Ontario will be using this standardized screening and assessment process. The hope and the vision are to speed up the process of referrals to these treat-

ment centres. GAIN-SS is the Global Assessment of Individual Needs Short Screener, MMS is the Modified Mini Screen, POSIT stands for Problem-Oriented Screening Instrument for Teenagers. GAIN-Q3-MI-ONT stands for Global Assessment of Individual Needs Quick Motivational Interviewing Ontario. The Addiction and Mental Health Worker can complete the GAIN-SS, Posit, and the MMS screening.

Looking to the future: I will be receiving training through WhitePath Consulting to provide the RedPath Addiction Treatment Program. This training will give me the ability and skills to run a 21-session addiction program in the community. Naloxone Kits and training to administer this life-saving opioid antagonist will be available through the Health Centre. We have received some training and workshops in bringing effective prevention programming for our younger community members. I want to work with my co-workers in bringing these Prevention programs into the schools.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 705-285-4354 or maelick@whitefishriver.ca. Miigwetch.

Community Energy Champion - Kendra McGregor

Aanii Everyone! It has officially been a year keeping our community safe. I would like to commend those community members and residents for doing their part this past year to keep this virus out of our community.

Currently, I am working on a video for the community about energy saving tips for your home- it will hopefully be debuted around the spring. I have also applied to the Small Business Lighting and Retrofit Program which was approved.

The Small Business Lighting Program offers up to \$2,000 of incentives per Whitefish River First Nation building. The assessment completed found that there are 8 buildings in the community where lighting retrofits can be completed at no cost to the community. The retrofits would save Whitefish River about 39,561 kWh in electricity savings per year.

The buildings considered include: Implement Shed; Health Centre; Seven Fires Elders Centre; Shawanosowe School; Waubetek; Community Centre; Fire Hall and Daycare. The retrofit consists primarily of upgrading existing lighting to LED within these buildings. The retrofit program offers an incentive towards retrofits that will improve the overall efficiency of Whitefish River First Nation buildings. In this case, it will be used to install lighting equipment that is outside of the scope of the Small Business Lighting program and for additional lighting retrofits that exceed the cap of the Small Business Lighting program. This program considers additional lighting retrofits for the Shawanosowe School, Implement Shed, and Fire Hall. It also includes

dimmers in the Shawanosowe School.

Last month I also delivered household energy kits which included motion sensor lights, weather strip, and window insulation. I hope some of these items came in handy, or will come in handy in the near future! If you need information on how to use any of these items you received- send me an email!

If you need assistance with your Hydro one bill check out:

- OESP: Ontario Electrical Support Program
- Hydro One COVID19 Energy Assistance Program

Energy Tips for Spring:

- Now that the weather is warming up we can make use of our clotheslines and BBQ's!
- Open the windows on warmer days. If we're going to be spending lots of time indoors, we need that fresh air even more. Don't forget to turn off the heat or air conditioning and then open the doors and windows when the temperature warms up. This allows your home to air out any built-up pollutants or humidity.
- Switch the direction of your ceiling fan. We know - this one sounds a bit silly. How much of a difference can the direction of your ceiling fan make? Surprisingly, quite a bit! In the winter, your ceiling fans should be rotating clockwise on low speed to distribute the rising warm air around the room. In the summer, the fan should turn counter-clockwise to force air down into the room to help cool its occupants.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 705-285-4335 or kendra.mcgregor@whitefishriver.ca. Miigwetch!

Cannabis Project - Jasmine Fournier

Even through these uncertain times, we were able to learn and grow. We hired two highly qualified and motivated individuals to work on this project:

Kelsie McGregor: Research Project Assistant

Aanii, Boozhoo, my name's Kelsie McGregor and I am Crane clan from Whitefish River. I've been away for the past few years completing my Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Health Sciences, and most recently, my Masters in Public Health. I am super excited to back home and working on this project, and can't wait to see you guys at our upcoming events.

Cody Thomas: Performance Measurement and Evaluation Specialist.

Shé:kon (Hello) my name is Cody Thomas. I'm Mohawk Nation Bear clan from Six Nations of the Grand River territory. Growing up on reserve, I draw on lived experiences in all aspects of my personal and professional life to help improve the quality of life for First Nations people across Canada. My experiences are rooted in community-based settings working cross-collaboratively within the public health arena. Combined with my experience and education in Health Sciences (minor First Nations Studies) and a Master of Public Health, I understand the realities of living in two worlds (Western and Indigenous) as this has facilitated growth throughout the years.

I am the Founder/Lead Consultant for Two Row Innovations located in Vancouver, BC. I'm excited to be a part of the cannabis project with Whitefish River First Nation and look forward to building meaningful relationships and helping to share valuable knowledge and information with the community.

Monthly Milestones

April

- End of year report to Health Canada

May

- Research and report development
- Supported the development of a community mental wellness strategy

June

- Participated in CCG tasks

July

- Back to office
- Recruitment process

August

- August 6: Community Update
- Hiring process

September

- September 8: Kelsie McGregor hired as Research Project Assistant & Cody Thomas hired as Performance Measurement & Evaluation Specialist
- September 17: Start of poster series

October

- October 1: Cannabis information booth
- October 15: Web page went live <http://www.whitefishriver.ca/cannabis>
- October 27: End of poster series
- October 28: Open-Dialogue on Cannabis – Introduction

November

- November 16: Open-Dialogue on Cannabis – Hemp
- November 22-28: National Addictions Awareness Week
- November 25: Open-Dialogue on Cannabis – Harm Reduction

December

- December 9: Open-Dialogue on Cannabis – CBD

January

- January 11 – 15: 5 Senses Workshops
 - o Things you can hear w/ Justine Giles
 - o Things you can see w/ Sakena Media
 - o Things you can taste/smell w/ Louanne Andrews
 - o Things you can touch w/ Taylor Salisbury
- January 27: Mental Health Trivia Night

February

- February 24: Youth Mental Health Trivia
- February 25: Winter and Ice Safety w/ UCCM

March

- February 16 – March 16: Community Cannabis Programming Survey
 - o 105 surveys returned. Stay tuned for the accompanying report.
- March 8 & 15: Ribbon Skirt Making
- March 18 & 19: Ribbon Skirt Making

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 705-285-4354 or jfournier@whitefishriver.ca. You may also contact Kelsie McGregor 705-285-4354 or kmcgregor@whitefishriver.ca

Seniors Navigation Worker - Gail Pelletier

Just over a year ago I began this position as Seniors Navigation Worker. This past year has been very rewarding for me working for the seniors in the community. Because of the Covid pandemic, my main role was to ensure that the Seniors received health and wellness checks to ensure their safety and to meet their needs as deemed necessary.

This next year, I am looking forward to providing more interactive workshops and information sessions as this year WRFN has secured funding through Service Canada for the New Horizons Program which we have named it WRFN Gekaanyag Bimaadzawin. This would translate to Elders Good Life of Living. The following are the 5 priority areas for WRFN Gekaanyah Bimaadzawin:

- Priority 1: Supporting healthy ageing by promoting healthy, positive lifestyles through monthly workshops to address areas such as social isolation, mental health, seniors' health topics such as dementia, injury prevention.
- Priority 2: To provide resources for Seniors to combat Elder Abuse. It will also provide information the general public to ensure that all

community members have the knowledge and resources for the prevention of Elder Abuse. Concurrently, participants will also be given the opportunity to address financial topics such as financial stability and wills and estates.

- Priority 3: Throughout this project youth and adults will be mentored in workshops such as language, ceremony, and traditional customs of the Anishinabek of WRFN. This engagement will allow for intergenerational inclusion.
- Priority 4: Part of this project will ensure that Seniors have accessibility to resources and information that they can use to maximize any government and First Nation benefits that they are entitled too, which can include free tax filing services, old age pension applications, etc.
- Priority 5: The project will be utilizing online training, workshops, and information sharing. All Seniors will have access to the information by means of virtual access and a volunteer recruitment to support Seniors will be developed to provide individual mentorship.

If you would like further information, please contact me at 705-285-4354 gpelletier@whitefishriver.ca.

The Water Shed - Amy Waboose, Andy Recollet, Mark Shawanda

Hi guys, what a year it has been! We have been very busy here at the plant, keeping up with our maintenance in and around the plant.

When Covid-19 hit us full force last year this time, we are essential workers and had to still deliver safe drinking water to our community. We had all the water crew switching week after week to provide safe water as well as respect the Covid-19 protocols.



I just want to enlighten our people on our daily duties we do every day:

1. Overview our SCADA system and look at our trends
2. Do our Daily Checks in Plant, Chlorine analyzers, Ozone generators, UV system, Turbidimeters, Chlorine Watson and Marlow pumps, generators, sand filters, roughing filters to ensure everything is running properly as well as no leaks.
3. Do our Daily Checks at our Pump House Station, Pressure Relief valve located at the back of the Fire Hall and also our Water Tower,

record all numbers on our analyzers

4. Grab Samples from the distribution system, (Band Office, School, Daycare, Family Well Being, Fire Hall, Community Center, Shop, 7 Fires Building and our dead ends) We pick a new building every day to ensure there is a Chlorine Residual throughout the distribution

5. Daily Lab testing the water for Free Chlorine, Total Chlorine, pH, Temperature and Turbidity.

6. Every Tuesday we do Bacteriological Sampling for Near North Labs and send them to North Bay for further assessments.

7. Every Thursday we do our on Bacteriological Sampling in and around the community, and bring back to the Plant wait 24 hours while the samples are "cooking" in our incubator. We further assess the samples to make there are no contaminants.

This is just what we do on a Daily basis, our plant is being monitored for 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, we all switch weeks for who's on-call. We have monthly duties to keep up to par after we do our dailies. As in running our Generators, calibrating all analyzers to keep them reading the right numbers, calibrating all handheld instruments including our Water truck instruments, calibrating the turbidimeters, keeping our chlorine tanks full to disinfect our water, replacing and repairing any pipes or lines that need to be.

This year, in review, has been a tough one, it took a toll on all of us, but we stuck together and pushed through. As Water Operators we still have to maintain our CEU's (Continuing Education Units) to keep our Tickets up to par, which we used to go to the Water Symposiums to get our training or circuit riders would come to the plant for OJT (on the job training). That has all changed now to online zoom training and get our certificates mailed, which is also hard to adjust to but has to be done to continue our education. As well, we got mailed a brand new DE-ICER from AWWAO and Thank you so much, it will come in handy if and when one of our pipes freeze.

ANNUAL SPRING HYDRANT FLUSHING

We are planning to flush the week of APRIL 12-16, 2021. At the same time, we will be making repairs to any gaskets, rings or leaks at the same time. After our Fall Hydrant flush we ordered a bunch of repair kits for the hydrants to insure they are working properly. Thanks guys, I hope everyone enjoys their Easter Holidays! Cheers.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Amy, Andy or Mark at the plant at 705-285-0007.

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Consultation Coordinator - Stephen McGregor

Aanii, there were some additions to my responsibilities as Consultation Coordinator in the past year due to the pandemic. I don't need to state just how busy the past year has been for me as a member of WRFN staff as I am certain that everyone has endured the pressure that the pandemic has brought to our homes.

Some of the activities I have been involved in are:

- The food security/delivery program that ran between April and December 2021.
- The two Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement voting processes implemented by WRFN staff (from January to December 2021).
- Ongoing discussions with Stantec regarding the Swing Bridge Study
- Continued involvement with the Manitoulin NRF Group
- Attended meetings with Anishinabek Nation regarding: Lands Resources, Mining, and Water Quantity, International Joint Commission Webinar (High water levels on Lakes Superior, Huron, Michigan, and Erie).
- 2020 Ontario Archaeological Society Online Symposium (Digging into GIS: A DIY Workshop for Archaeology)
- Training course on "Consultation 2021: Critical and Emerging Issues" hosted by Osgoode Law
- Attended short courses offered by Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada "Mining Disclosure under NI 43 - 101 and meeting requirements" and "Environmental Intelligence as a Guide to Successful Mining Projects"
- Training course for ArcGIS Online: Essential Workflows hosted by Esri Canada
- Meeting with MNDM and Anishinabek Nation on the Sault Ste. Marie Rehab Project - Discussion
- Continued involvement with the North shore Forest Indigenous Task Team Meetings
- Attended information session on Road Treatment of Invasive Phragmites for Municipalities in the Greater Georgian Bay Area
- Training and license registration with the Enhanced Maritime Situational Awareness (EMSA) platform for myself and four other WRFN member participants.

The last point deals with the Enhanced Maritime Situational Awareness system which is an online Geographic Information System computer based program. The EMSA platform has many applications to it, from marine

safety initiatives to Species at Risk and Invasive Species trend analysis. The program has given our community another method to monitor and evaluate marine safety. This relationship began with the Canadian Coast Guard in January 2021 and I believe can benefit the community in many ways. I'm proud to say that Sandy Jacko (in her role as Manager of Community Economic Development) and the administrative staff here secured funding for a new boat that will be used for search and rescue operations. Through the Indigenous Marine Liaison Officer program we are involved in a partnership with the Canadian Coast Guard to collaborate on various projects such as: Free training, employment opportunities with the Canadian Coast Guard, increased awareness on marine safety expertise. The Canadian Coast Guard liaison position is an ongoing 12 month commitment and I am pleased to be involved with the initiative.

Stantec Consulting Ltd was hired by MTO to study the Swing Bridge leading from the mainland to Little Current. The Swing Bridge is nearing the end of its service life so Stantec is required to develop a plan to redesign with the bridge while also gaining public input into what the best solution is for replacement. We have the opportunity to have some input into this study by viewing the online Public Information Centre (PIC) available online until April 30 2021 and make comment through the Swing Bridge Study website. If you have any difficulty accessing the PIC online you can gain access by contacting either:

Ms. Melissa Delfino, P.Eng.

Senior Project Engineer
Ministry of Transportation
Northeastern Region
Tel: (705) 497-6807 or (705) 491-7756
Toll-free: 1-800-461-9547
ProjectTeam@swingbridgestudy.ca

Mr. Gregg Cooke, P.Eng.

Consultant Project Manager
Stantec Consulting Ltd.
Tel: (905) 381-3227
Call Collect: (905) 385-3234
ProjectTeam@swingbridgestudy.ca

To make a comment about the Swing Bridge Study you can access the website: www.swingbridgestudy.ca and make a comment on the site under the tab Consultation.

I'm available to speak to WRFN members regarding consultation, I can be reached at the administration office at (705)285-4335 or by email stephenm@whitefishriver.ca



To all Whitefish River First Nation Post-Secondary Students

Bursaries & Scholarships

Please visit and find the right one for you!

<https://indspire.ca/programs/students/bursaries-sc>
<https://studentawards.com/>
<https://www.scholarshipscanada.com/>

We are currently working away from the Administration Office.

For application help please reach out to Keisha McGregor, Education Assistant at (705) 863-0555 or via email: keisham@whitefishriver.ca



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Housing Manager - Georgina Recollet

This past year was a very challenging year with COVID -19; limited funding; and limited staffing. However, we still managed to complete some work in new housing construction with 12 units and 18 major renovations. We also were able to try to manage emergency repairs and maintenance of the current rental stock. I have attached some highlights of what was completed last fiscal year.

New Construction - Elders Residence

During the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021 Whitefish River First Nation had completed the construction of the 8 unit "Elders Residence" in July 2020. This building has 6 single units and 2 double units.



Currently this building is identified as the temporary "COVID-19" unit. Once we get direction to release the unit for occupancy the Housing Committee will begin reviewing all the housing applications for the elder expression of interest. Upon release of the unit we would like also like to host a grand opening and an official open house.

New Housing Construction

As of March 31, 2021 we had completed the construction of 4 units with 2 bedrooms with full basements. There is minor deficiencies that need to be taken care of in the interior, plus COVID-19 cleaning, and the exterior landscaping needs to be done. It is anticipated that all this work will be completed before April 30, 2021.



Upcoming New Housing Construction Projects

On behalf of Whitefish River First Nation we had submitted a proposal to the National Housing Strategy for the Rapid Housing Initiative for the construction of 5 units in the current vacant lots; in the Maple Heights Subdivision.

This project include 2 units with three bedrooms and 3 units with four bedrooms. This proposal was submitted in December 2020. This program was a very competitive process with limited funding nationally. This was open to both on and off First Nations, municipalities and organizations.

Unfortunately, we were informed on March 12, 2021 that we have scored high on their review, they have received a substantial requests and that we would be placed on the list pending additional future funding.

Renovations-Enhanced Housing Program ISC

During the summer and fall of 2020 we were able to complete 16 major renovations to the band rental units through the Enhanced Housing Program. We had used local contractors to complete this work such as exterior landings, new window and doors, bathroom repairs, and new shingling.

CMHC Section 95 Project #1

As the Section 95 Project #1 is nearing its end of mortgage there was funding available to extend the life of each unit for 5 units. We were able to complete one major renovations for each unit. This work included near shingling, new cabinets, new exterior landings and updating some flooring.

CMHC RRAP

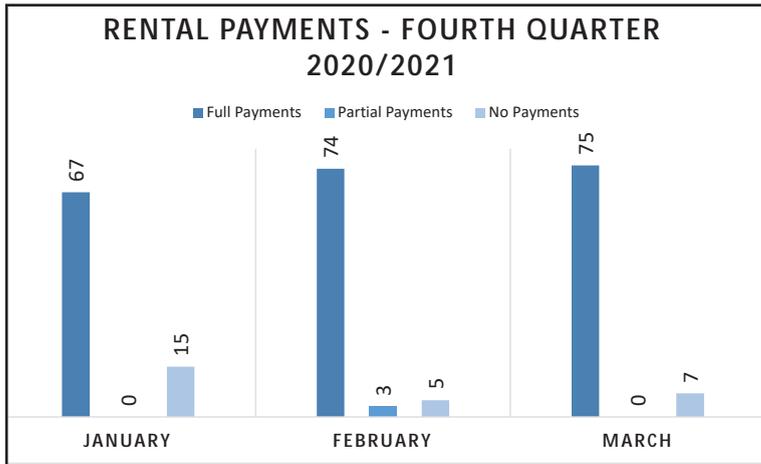
The last fiscal year there was limited funding for renovations from CMHC. We only did emergency repairs for two units. This work included replacements of new kitchen cabinets and shingles for elders. I have been advised that upcoming fiscal year funding will be very limited again.

Wishing every one health and happiness in the upcoming year.

Tenant Relations Worker - Brianna McGregor

Fourth Quarter 2020/2021 – Rental Units

The Housing Department managed 82 rental units in the fourth quarter of 2020/2021. The chart provided outlines the statistics for each month in the fourth quarter. The rental payments were categorized as full payments, partial payments, and no payments.



Septic Pump Outs

The Housing Department has two dates for WRFN tenants and homeowners to schedule a septic pump out. Rock Solid Septic will be providing septic service on April 21 and 28, 2021. The fee is \$100.00 per household. You will be required to pay the fee in cash to driver upon his arrival. Please contact me at briannam@whitefishriver.ca or 705-285-4335 ext. 213 to register.

APRIL 21 & 28 2021

SPRING SEPTIC PUMP OUTS

\$100.00 PER HOUSEHOLD
Please pay the driver the fee directly.

Call the Housing Department at 705-285-4335 to book your date for your septic pump out.

Please ensure someone is present at your home and your lids are uncovered on your appointment date!

WRFN REMAINS IN A STATE OF EMERGENCY

Elders Residence Donations

The Housing Department is accepting new or gently used donations for the resource room at the Elders Residence. We are looking for various non-fiction books (cooking, sewing native language, arts & crafts, etc.), fiction books (thriller, romance, mystery, crime, etc.), arts & crafts materials (sewing patterns, fabric, beads, leather, paint, etc.). If you have any items to donate, please contact myself or Georgina Recollet, Housing Manager.

LOOKING FOR DONATIONS

The WRFN Elders Residence is looking for:

- Sewing supplies
- Scrapbooking supplies
- Painting supplies
- Resource and Non-Fiction Books
- Fiction Books
- Jigsaw Puzzles
- Puzzle Books

Please contact the Housing Department to make arrangements to pick up or drop off your new or gently used items at 705-285-4335.

WRFN Remains in a State of Emergency

Yard Maintenance

Now that Spring is here, the Housing Department would like to remind tenants to keep playgrounds, fire pits, trampolines, ATVs, gardens, trees, and any other structures or objects off of their field beds. It is very important that the field bed portion of the septic system is maintained and kept clear of any obstructions. If the field bed is compacted from over usage, the underground lines could clog up and cause the septic system to back up.

Tenants are also reminded to keep their yards clean and clear of debris/junk. The WRFN Housing Policy under Section 3.4 Tenant Responsibilities states: "Keep the rental unit in good, clean and sanitary condition, including the yard." and "Keep the rental unit and surrounding areas clean and free of rubbish and remove junked cars and other rubbish where it poses a health, environmental or safety hazard."

If you have any questions, please contact me at 705-285-4335 ext. 213 or briannam@whitefishriver.ca.



Caitlin and her little helpers begin their day at Maamwe Kendaasing Early Learning & Innovation Centre with a smudge.



Nakia and Lalia take home the third place prize in the Shawanosowe School Easter Door contest.



One of the little early learners at Maamwe Kendaasing contribute their own artwork to the wall.



Another one of the four new rental units constructed on the Maple Heights subdivision.



Haisley sure does know how to make the perfect snow angel!



The second place winner of Shawanosowe School's Easter Door contest. Fantastic work, Daisy!



Liam's colourful easter display landed him in first place in the Shawanosowe School Easter Door contest.

Lands Manager - Kathleen Migwanabi

The WRFN Lands Department is responsible to oversee all land activities, this includes, requests for access, fishing/hunting, timber/fuelwood harvesting and other activities on the land. Community members, are encouraged to contact the Lands Department when you are planning any type of activity or Land Use, whether it be on Reserve Lands or "Treaty" Lands. Recreational Leases and Permits

During WRFN State of Emergency, the Emergency Management Order regarding Recreational Leases and Permits was amended in September 2020 to allow Cottagers and their immediate family members to access their camps during certain phases of the State of Emergency, provided they contact the Lands Department in advance and adhere to WRFN Travel protocols. When a lock-down and a Stay-At-Home Order is in place, tenants will not be granted access to their camps. We will continue with the Cottage Monitoring plan during the WRFN State of Emergency.

FISHING SITE MONITORING

The fishing sites and Marinas in WRFN were also closed during the state of emergency, and were monitored daily for activity during the months of May, June and July 2021. The monitoring of the Fishing sites: Whitefish River and Swift Current will continue during the annual Smelt and Walleye spawn runs. Only Members of Whitefish River will be able to access these sites. If you are you interested in assisting with the monitoring of these sites, please contact Keith Nahwegahbow, Lands Assistant at keithn@whitefishriver.ca. Chi-Miigwetch to our community members for also assisting with the monitoring by contacting the administration office.

Whitefish River Walleye Program

In the beginning of 2020 we started talks with the MNR of the Whitefish River Walleye population. Due to the COVID Pandemic there was no work done on with the Whitefish River Walleye Program. Now, we are starting to pick up these talks again. We are currently at the goals and objectives stage of developing a Lake Wide Walleye Management strategy. Pending approval from funding we would like to practice Walleye Culture, which is harvesting eggs directly from the walleye and growing those eggs in our micro hatcheries and then releasing them back into the Whitefish River.

WRFN has taken a more active role in the Walleye rearing pond located

in Whitefish Falls. This year we want to start back up with our Walleye Stocking initiative. We are looking for volunteers to get involved with the Walleye program. If you're interested in lending a hand to the Whitefish River Walleye project, please contact the WRFN Lands Department.

Requests for Land Allotments

Please contact the Land Department to request information regarding land allotment requests. Applicants are required to make an appointment with the Lands Department prior to submitting a request for a land allotment. Requests for Land Allotments are publicly posted for a period of sixty (60) days, at the Administration Office, Health Centre, Post Office, and you can see these land allotment postings when they are posted on the Whitefish River FN website. For more information about the WRFN Land allotment policy and to check what land is available for allotment please contact the WRFN Lands Department.

Requests for Surveys

All land allotment request require a survey to be completed. Land allotments were also postponed during the spring and summer of 2020, and the Community Control group assessed the requests for survey work to be completed and it had been determined that Survey work is low risk and now requests for Surveys can be resumed. Applicants who have submitted a request for a Land Allotment previously can now resume having their survey work done. The Surveyor requires permission to enter the reserve, and this permission is obtained from the Lands Department. Please contact Kathleen Migwanabi at kathleenm@whitefishriver.ca

Sugar Bush Update

WRFN has retained Mr. Dean Assinewe, a Registered Professional Forester to visit and assess the Sugar Bush Area. The assessment will be completed in two phases. The first phase was to introduce Mr. Assinewe to the various operators and took place on Saturday March 20, 2021. And, the second phase will include technical assessments and will be scheduled to take place in early April 2021. The Report will be shared with the community after the report has been finalized.

If you have any questions please contact me at 705-285-4335 or kathleenm@whitefishriver.ca or Keith Nahwegahbow, Lands Assistant at keithn@whitefishriver.ca.



Suite 230 | 55 Murray Street | Ottawa | ON | K1N 5M3
T: 613 722 9081 | F: 613 722 9087
westawaylaw.ca

Supreme Court of Canada Upholds the Federal Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act

On March 25, 2021, the Supreme Court of Canada released its decision in *Reference re Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act*.¹ The central issue in this case is whether the matters addressed in the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* (the *GGPPA*) are matters of sufficient national concern that they fall within federal jurisdiction.

The *GGPPA* is a valid federal legislation

A majority of the judges found that the *GGPPA* establishes minimum national standards of greenhouse gas emission (GHG) price stringency to reduce GHG emissions. The purpose of this legislation is to put a price on GHG emissions "in order to induce behavioural changes that will lead to a widespread reduction in emissions." In the words of the Chief Justice, "[b]y putting a price on GHG emissions, governments can incentivize individuals and businesses to change their behaviour so as to make more environmentally sustainable purchasing and consumption choices, to redirect their financial investments, and to reduce their GHG emissions by substituting carbon-intensive goods for low-GHG alternatives." [para 16]

The Court found that establishing minimum national standards of GHG price stringency to reduce GHG emissions is a matter of national concern and one that the provinces, whether acting separately or together, are incapable of addressing. The Court highlighted the backstop nature of the federal scheme, which only has effect in those provinces that do not have sufficiently stringent pricing schemes in place. The way the legislation is structured, the GHG pricing mechanism established under the *Act* will not come into operation at all in provinces or territories that already have a sufficiently stringent GHG pricing system.

Carbon pricing is a regulatory charge and not a "tax"

Although the charges established under the *Act* are sometimes colloquially referred to as a "carbon tax", the Court found that these charges do not meet the definition of a "tax" but are instead valid regulatory charges designed to influence behaviour.

Identifying matters of "national concern"

The court held that, in order for a matter to be of sufficient "national concern" that it can properly be addressed by the federal Parliament, there are a number of criteria that must be met. They can be summarized as follows:

- The matter addressed in the legislation must be "of sufficient concern to Canada as a whole" to warrant consideration under the national concern doctrine – this invites a common sense inquiry into the national importance of the proposed matter.

¹ Reference re Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act, 2021 SCC 11.



COMMUNITY Audit Presentation

MONDAY, APRIL
12, 2021 AT 6 PM

ZOOM MEETING ID - 932 2113 0961

PASSCODE - 999999

If you would like a copy of the audit report please
contact the administration office at 705-285-4335.

Family WellBeing Manager - Leslie McGregor

Good day fellow community members! A year has gone by with our department and colleagues managing our programs and services through the COVID-19 pandemic.

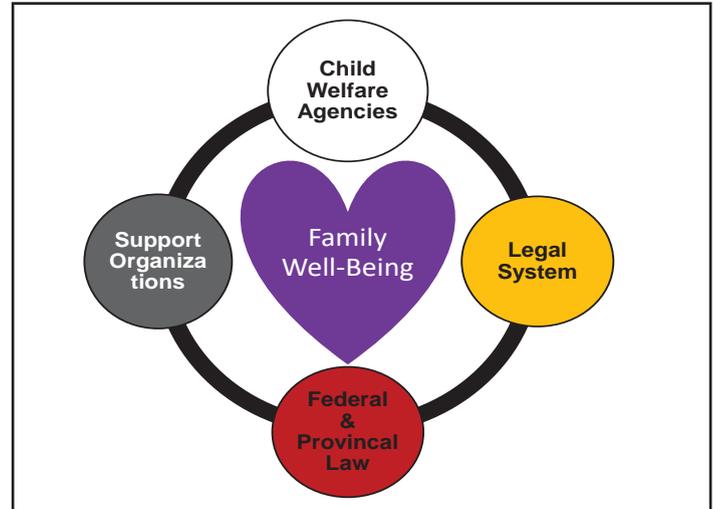
It has been challenging, that's for sure. We have learned to modify how we deliver services and programs to the community while keeping ourselves, our clients, and the community members safe. Not an easy task and very stressful at times.

As you may recall, the Family Well-Being Department is new. We were created when Social Services separated from Health. The Family Well-Being Department is still in its developmental stages, and as we grow, our programs and services will increase.

Currently, the Family Well-Being Department (FWB) consists of the Band Representatives that support families dealing with child welfare and the court system, Family Resource Worker that supports families and works on the prevention side of services. We also have the Youth Support Worker that provides services to our youth in the community. Lastly, we have the Family Well-Being program that supports activities and programs in the community.

The FWB Department supports families and advocates for families dealing with child welfare agencies, the legal/judicial system, how

federal and provincial laws impact our families and communities and seeks ways that other organizations and departments can support our families.



If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 705-285-1941 or lmcgregor@whitefishriver.ca. Miigwetch!

Family Resource Worker - Paige Jacko

Hello, welcome back! This past year we have had to adjust through the COVID-19 pandemic and the significant impact on our lives. Many of us face challenges that can be stressful, overwhelming, and can caused strong emotions in ourselves and our children.

But, learning to cope with stress in a healthy way will make us more resilient. Here are some healthy ways to cope with stress;

- Take breaks from watching, listening to news stories, and social media. It's excellent to be informed, but hearing about the pandemic all the time can be upsetting.
- Take care of your body (deep breaths, stretches, exercise, get plenty of sleep, and eating healthy)
- Make time to unwind.

Over the past few months, we have been providing programming, and we can't thank the community members enough for participating and being patient with us.

We hope that you are enjoying the programs and if you would like to provide feedback. Please, don't hesitate to contact us or reach out to us on our Facebook page WRFN Family Well-Being Team.

Furthermore, I will continue to assist families and link them to supports both in the community and external services. Working in collaboration with the Band Representative programs allows me to help families and create more growth opportunities, learning, and fun.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the Family Well-Being Centre at 705-285-1941 or through email at paigej@whitefishriver.ca

**Whitefish River First Nation
Education Department**

PH: 705-285-4335 www.whitefishriver.ca

**POST SECONDARY FUNDING APPLICATION
NEW ON-LINE PROCESS**

All Students who want to be considered for Post Secondary Education funding **MUST** apply by the deadline

DEADLINE MAY 31, 2021

**FALL, WINTER, SPRING, SUMMER SESSIONS
2021-2022**

NEW STUDENTS
ON-LINE APPLICATIONS available here
<https://whitefishriver.dadavan.com/student/pseapplication.jsp>

RETURNING STUDENTS
<https://whitefishriver.dadavan.com/student/studentpage.jsp>

If you have any questions please feel free to contact
Leslie Recollet, Education Manager 705-285-4335 ext 201
Keisha McGregor, Education Assistant 705-285-4335 ext 209
or education@whitefishriver.ca

Education Manager - Leslie Manitowabi-Recollet

As we are finishing our last quarter of the fiscal year and we are springing into our plans for 2021-2022. While this year has been challenging we continue to strive and support our students. We have supported 70 students enrolled in University/College programs for the Winter term, 29 Elementary and Secondary School Students who attend school in Espanola, 48 students at Shawanosowe School and provide daycare services to our Community Members.

POST SECONDARY STUDENTS REMINDERS

Post-Secondary School Funding Application – DEADLINE MAY 31, 2021. YOU MUST APPLY EVERY YEAR

NEW APPLICATION PROCESS

How to apply for PSE Funding?

1. Please click on the link provided: <https://whitefishriver.dadavan.com/login.jsp>.
2. On the top of the homepage please click on the link to **PSE Funding Application**.
3. Here is where you'll provide us with personal and program information. *Please note you will be required to apply for each semester funding is required. E.g. For Fall/Winter, submit one application for Fall and one for Winter. Applications can be duplicated if for the same program. When applying for funding please use your personal email rather than your College or University provided one.*
4. Please ensure you fill out the application completely as missing information can delay the process. When you have completed the application hit **Submit Application**.
5. When you submit your application it will automatically get sent to us, you will be able to see your application status as pending, approved, or declined when you access your student portal. Please follow the steps below to access your portal.

SPONSORSHIP ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR PSE APPLICATION FEE ASSISTANCE AND/OR PSE SPONSORSHIP

- a. Must be a registered citizen of Whitefish River First Nation and provide proof (I.E. Indian status card) in order to apply for post-secondary funding;
- b. Must have been a resident of Canada for 12 consecutive months prior to May 31, 2021.

APPROVAL LETTERS

- c. Final Approval letters: Students selected for final sponsorship approved for Full or Partial Sponsorship, are students that have submitted a complete application prior to the application deadline and include all supporting documentation. These students will be provided with a Student Sponsorship Final Approval Letter. This letter will outline the sponsorship amounts of assistance based on their complete application for sponsorship. Concurrently, a Tuition Sponsorship letter will be issued to the selected educational institution, with a copy to the sponsored student;
- d. Conditional Approval letters: Students selected for conditional approval for Full or Partial Sponsorship, are students that have submitted an application prior to the application deadline but may be missing pertinent details in the application and or missing supporting documentation. These students will be provided with a Student Sponsorship Conditional Approval Letter. This letter will outline what information and / or document(s) the applicant must provide to WRFN before the applicant will receive a Final Approval letter. Also, the relevant educational institute will not receive a Tuition sponsorship letter, on behalf of the student, until the student has received final approval.

ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS / COURSES

- a. Eligible Post-Secondary Programs:
 - i. Must be at least two (2) semesters in duration;
 - ii. Must have secondary school completion or higher as a prerequisite for admission to the program;
 - iii. Must be a Canadian Provincial or Territorial Community College or University accredited post-secondary institution or an educational institution affiliated with or delivering accredited post-secondary; certificate (1 or 2 yr.), diploma (2 or 3 yr.), degree (Associate or Honours), Masters, or Phd. Program;
 - iv. May be a Private Post-Secondary Institution, however, assistance will be calculated at the public Post-Secondary rate for the same or similar

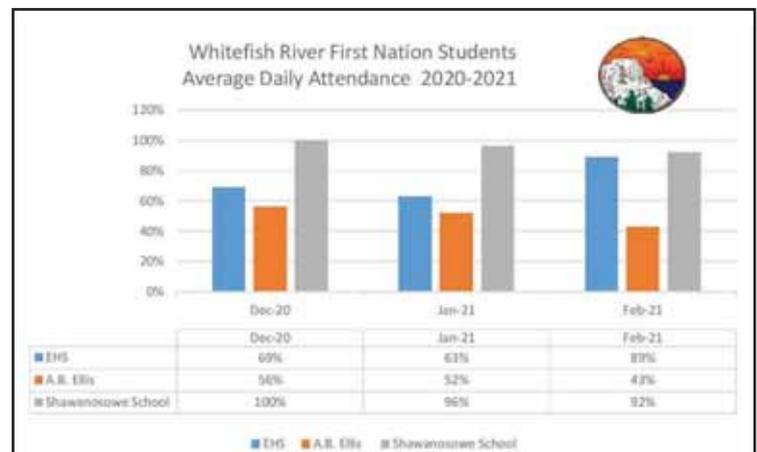
- program;
- v. College & University Preparatory Programs (Law or Engineering);
 - vi. College & University Entrance Programs that result in credit(s) toward a diploma or degree.
- b. Applicants must provide a program syllabus, as per their education plan.
 - c. Eligible Post-Secondary Courses:
 - i. To be consistent with the selected course of study, syllabus and the applicants' education plan.
 - d. Ineligible Post-Secondary Programs/Courses:
 - i. Non-Canadian based educational institution programs and / or courses;
 - ii. Programs and / or courses taken outside the sponsored program are the responsibility of the student;
 - iii. Any program less than two semesters in duration.

ESPANOLA ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY STUDENTS

The Rainbow District School Board has advised all Parents/Guardians that remote learning continues until further notice. If you require further resources, please feel free to contact our office and we will be happy to assist you in any way that we can.

Attendance

Regular attendance is very important – a student's over-all growth increases significantly over time when they attend regularly and have strong connections to all aspects of classroom and school learning. Research demonstrates there is a powerful link between successful learning and regular school attendance. Here are the stats for our students attending Espanola High School, AB Ellis and Shawanosowe School.



Anishinabek Education System (AES)

An essential part of building the Anishinabek Education System (AES) lies in supporting Anishinabek students' achievement and well-being. To do that, the collection of data is vital.

The Education department will be sending information packages to your households containing a consent form to be signed by parents and caregivers for students under the age of 16 and a consent form for students 16 and over, residing either on-reserve or off-reserve. The consent will allow statistical student information to be collected and shared with the Participating First Nations, the KEB, and the Ministry of Education. Additionally, since most of our students will attend an Ontario school at some point, Ontario will be able to adequately plan and resource their support for AES students.

LIBRARY

The Library and Resource Centre is currently closed due to the Community Closure. Regular hours will be Monday to Friday, 12 pm to 6 pm once we are able to open safely. If you should require access at another time, please feel free to call the Education Department at 705-285-4335 and we would be happy to open the building for your use.



Whitefish River First Nation
BAND COUNCIL RESOLUTION

CHRONOLOGICAL NO.	3878
FILE REFERENCE NO.	

NOTE: The words "from our Band Funds" "capital" or "revenue", whichever is the case, must appear in all resolutions requesting expenditures from Band Funds.

The Council of the WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION		Cash Free Balance
		Capital Account
		\$ _____
Date of Duty Convened Meeting March 24, 2020	Province ONTARIO	Revenue Account
		\$ _____

**BY-LAW NO. 2020.01
OF THE WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION BAND COUNCIL
A BY-LAW RESPECTING COVID-19 VIRUS**

WHEREAS the COVID-19 virus was declared by the World Health Organisation on March 11, 2020 to be a pandemic;

AND WHEREAS Ontario has many confirmed cases of the COVID-19 virus and as of the date of passage of this by-law, the number of confirmed cases per day is rising, and the Province of Ontario pursuant to public health advice declared a state of emergency on March 17, 2020 under Ontario's *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* in respect of the COVID-19 virus and has passed a number of orders to seek to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus;

AND WHEREAS many members of Whitefish First Nation are elderly, and among those members resident on the Reserve there is a high prevalence of underlying health conditions which are major risk factors associated with contracting the COVID-19 virus, and there is a lot of traffic in and out of the Reserve;

AND WHEREAS the Council, after considering public health advice, has deemed it expedient and necessary for the peace, safety and good governance of its members, to seek to limit exposure of people resident on the Reserve to the COVID-19 virus by putting in place various measures;

AND WHEREAS the Council has inherent powers of self-government to protect its members from serious threats to their health;

AND WHEREAS the Council has the authority to make by-laws to provide for the health of residents on the Reserve and to seek to prevent the spreading of the COVID-19 virus which is a contagious and infectious disease, pursuant to section 81(1)(a) of the *Indian Act*;

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby enacted pursuant to section 81(1) of the *Indian Act* and our inherent powers of self-government to protect our members from serious threats to our health:

Short Title

1. This By-Law may be cited as the *Whitefish River First Nation COVID-19 Virus By-Law*.

Interpretation

2. In this By-Law:

"Band Council Resolution" means a band council resolution passed by Council pursuant to this By-law;

"Council" of the Chief and Council of the Whitefish River First Nation;

"COVID-19 Emergency Period" means the period commencing with the date and time of publication of this By-law in accordance with the requirements of the *Indian Act* (Canada) and ending on a date and time determined in accordance with the Emergency Response Plan, or for such further and other periods as may be determined in accordance with the Emergency Response Plan.

"Emergency Response Plan" means the emergency response plan attached to this By-law, and all annexes to that plan including:

(a) a COVID-19 pandemic plan;

(b) any other plans that may be added to the Emergency Response Plan to address the COVID-19 virus by way of a Band Council Resolution authorizing the addition of those plans to the Emergency Response Plan;

(c) any amendments to the Emergency Response Plan and the plans referred to

in (a) and (b) above that may be approved in accordance with this By-law;

"Officer" means any police officer, police constable or other person charged with the duty to preserve and maintain the public peace, and any person appointed by the Chief or the Band Manager for the purpose of enforcing this By-law, including individuals who are not peace officers;

"Reserve" means the reserve of the Whitefish River First Nation set apart for the use and benefit of the Whitefish River First Nation.

3. The Council hereby declares that a state of emergency exists on the Reserve because of the COVID-19 virus, in order to seek to prevent the spreading of the COVID-19 virus amongst the members of Whitefish River First Nation and other residents on the Reserve.
4. During the COVID-19 Emergency Period, the Emergency Response Plan shall be in effect in accordance with its terms to address the state of emergency due to the COVID-19 virus.
5. The entirety of the Reserve is declared to be the emergency area during the COVID-19 Emergency Period.
6. The following members of Council are hereby designated to exercise the power and perform the duties of the Chief under the Emergency Response Plan during any absence of the Chief:
Councillor Esther Osche
7. The Chief or his designate may take such action and make such orders as provided for under the Emergency Response Plan as considered necessary and are not contrary to law to implement the Emergency Response Plan to protect the health, safety, welfare and property of the inhabitants of the Reserve in respect of the COVID-19 virus.
8. The Band Manager shall be the Incident Commander to lead the implementation of the COVID-19 Pandemic Plan 2020, unless replaced by the Chief in case the named Incident Commander is unable to carry out the duties of the Incident Commander.
9. The Whitefish River First Nation Band Manager is authorized to prepare draft amendments to the Emergency Response Plan to respond to the Covid-19 virus, for consideration by Council. Any such amendments or revisions of those draft amendments as determined by Council shall come into force upon approval of Council.
10. The Whitefish River First Nation Band Manager, after consultation with the Chief or his designate, is also authorized to make amendments to the annexes of the Emergency Response Plan, including the COVID-19 Pandemic Plan 2020, if determined to be appropriate in his position as Incident Commander, without prior approval of Council, which shall thereafter be presented to Council for review. Council may then make such further amendments to these annexes as may be appropriate.
11. If the initial COVID-19 Emergency Period is terminated in accordance with the Emergency Response Plan, one or more further COVID-19 Emergency Periods may be declared in accordance with the Emergency Response Plan if it is determined to be appropriate, after consideration of public health advice, to provide for the health of residents on the Reserve and to seek to prevent the spreading of the COVID-19 virus.
12. An Officer may ask such questions of individuals who are seeking to enter or leave the Reserve, whether on foot or in vehicles of any sort (whether motorized or not), or who are on the Reserve, as are reasonably necessary to determine if the individuals are acting in compliance with the Emergency Response Plan, and may take such measures as are reasonably necessary to require such individuals to comply with the Emergency Response Plan.

THIS BY-LAW IS HEREBY made at a duly convened meeting of the Council of the Whitefish River First Nation this 24th day of March, 2020.

Quorum – (4)

 _____ Councillor	 _____ Chief	 _____ Councillor
 _____ Councillor	 _____ Councillor	 _____ Councillor
 _____ Councillor	 _____ Councillor	 _____ Councillor

FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY					
Expenditure	Authority - Indian Act Section	Source of Funds	Expenditure	Authority - Indian Act Section	Source of Funds
		<input type="checkbox"/> Capital <input type="checkbox"/> Revenue			<input type="checkbox"/> Capital <input type="checkbox"/> Revenue
Recommending Officer			Recommending Officer		
Signature _____ Date _____			Signature _____ Date _____		
Approving Officer			Approving Officer		
Signature _____ Date _____			Signature _____ Date _____		

Early Learning Supervisor/Manager - Melanie Manitowabi

Miigwetch for your continued support during these unprecedented times. As we move forward with Early Learning we are aware that our schedule has went with the recommendations by the Community and we have done our part to ensure that families and children continue to remain safe.



While staff and children stayed home during our community lockdown and await next steps, the child care employees continued to work from home and used the time to upgrade their learning by joining several professional learning opportunities. The staff completed weekly tasks and met as a team each week to give weekly updates and to chat about how everyone was doing during these unprecedented times.

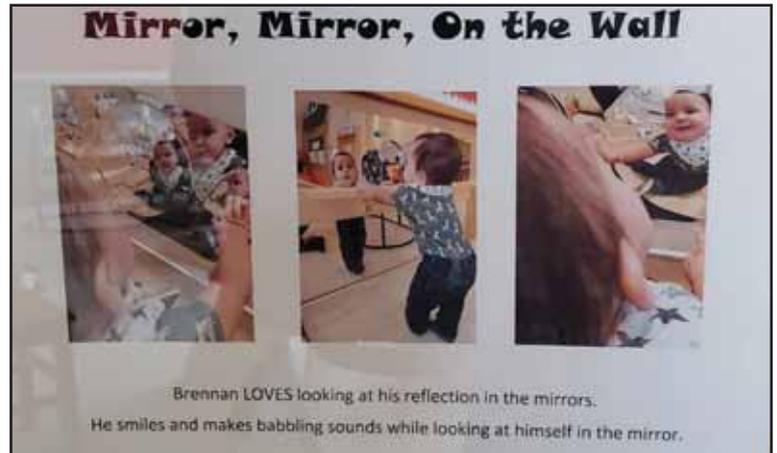
The administration team at Maamwe Kendaasing worked on plans to reopen the Early Learning Centre throughout the summer utilizing the Ministry of Education Guidance Documents and recommendations from various Child Care Centers in the development of our own policies and procedures, for the safe reopening of our doors to community.

Therefore, we will continue to follow the reopening guidelines as we move forward. During this time the Admin team and the Early Learning and Family Program Coordinator continue to make planed for community engagement activities, which followed social distancing protocols and utilized a virtual meeting platform for everyone to reconnect and have some fun!

These events included:

1. Monthly Food gift cards to support the children's nutrition while at home;
2. Monthly book club where each child received a new book to keep their literacy up;
3. Monthly Anishaabemowin Bingo for all families to keep their spirits up and the learning of language;
4. Monthly paint night

5. Several contests that had children be creative while at home with nature;
6. Virtual Yoga Sessions
7. Drive in Movie (shared event with the Family Well-Being Centre)
8. Baking with your Kids events
9. Regalia Making
10. Virtual Teachings with Elders and Knowledge Keepers (Family Bundle Series)
11. Purchasing of presents for Christmas for children 0-3.
12. Purchasing of gifts for the baby welcoming and the putting together of a virtual tribute that will be aired on social media.



The parents and community were very appreciative of all the activities provided to them and proved to be something positive to look forward to during these unprecedented times. Maamwe Kendaasing has since re-opened its doors on February 11, 2021 and have opened a new infant program and we had welcomed two new members to our centre. We also added additional students to our program as we have opened up the social program for children in a part-time basis and has been well received by the parents and the children.

In our programs staff had been busy designing and delivering engaging activities with our children and continue with their professional learning to support our growth in early learning in innovative ways, even more so during a global pandemic.

From all the staff at Maamwe Kendaasing, we wish all the families and communities a very special Easter Weekend.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office at 705-285-7777 or melaniem@whitefishriver.ca.

Band Representative - Arlene Pitawanakwat

Ahnii Boozho Community Members. Arlene Pitawanakwat Diizh naa Gaz. Spirit name is Ginew Miigwaan. Nimmkie Beneshie Dodem.

I am the Band Representative for the Family Well-Being Department at Whitefish River First Nation Administration. I work with families in the community.

My role as Band Representative is to advocate for our families who

are involved with child welfare agencies.

We are short on foster homes in the community so please don't be afraid to open your home to a child who needs a place of safety. We can fill our hearts by helping others!

My focus is the wellbeing of our community's families. I want to help. If you have any questions, please contact me at 705-863-2629 or arlenep@whitefishriver.ca. Miigwetch!

Shawanosowe School Principal - Tiffany Gagan



On March 15th, Shawanosowe School made the switch to remote learning. By learning together, while staying safely apart, our goal is to engage students in their education, while limiting the spread of COVID-19. As our third week of remote learning comes to a close, Shawanosowe School staff would like to thank our students and families for their continued patience, cooperation, and flexibility during this time.

All Shawanosowe School staff have been working hard to bring learning to life in new and innovative ways. We have had much success through Seesaw and Google Meets. We are grateful for the opportunity to stay connected digitally with students and families.

We have enjoyed coming together every morning through Google Meet for our Morning Circle prayer, song, and announcements.



Our weekly Seesaw and Google Meet Contests have been a big hit with our students!

Shawanosowe students have been working hard at completing all of their Seesaw activities, paper assignments and attending regularly scheduled Google Meets. At home learning is a new normal that we are all trying our best to navigate together. At this time, we will continue learning from home until further notice. We will keep you updated of any changes as soon as we can.



Students have been enjoying taking part in our weekly virtual dance/fundamental movement programs. We are very fortunate to take part in this program that is made possible through the Sports, Wellness and Achievement Network (SWAN) and Basketball Beginnings. This program connects young professional dance instructors with Shawanosowe School students for weekly livestreamed dance sessions. Virtual dance on Tuesday and Friday afternoons has been so much fun and is a great way for our students to fit in physical activity while learning online.

Whitefish River First Nation Consolidated Statement of Operations

For the year ended March 31	Budget	2020	2019
Revenue			
Indigenous Services Canada	\$ 4,649,171	\$ 4,663,985	\$ 4,510,727
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	1,634,224	1,590,793	494,334
Government of Canada	825,648	524,631	242,533
Ontario	1,701,735	1,676,054	1,031,110
Anishinabek organizations	4,796,036	4,253,531	3,641,118
OFNLP	900,000	934,049	277,559
Interest and other revenue	460,095	411,735	431,824
User fees, leases, rental income, sales and fundraising	1,287,755	1,361,617	1,610,274
	<u>16,254,664</u>	<u>15,416,395</u>	<u>12,239,479</u>
Expenses			
Social and family services	1,991,894	1,956,992	1,206,115
Administration, lands and economic development	1,605,926	1,689,242	1,718,115
Education	3,940,755	3,433,329	3,119,197
Operations and maintenance	1,757,371	1,858,575	1,623,734
Housing and infrastructure development	2,076,994	1,347,666	1,261,269
Medical and other health services	1,135,466	998,663	924,977
Enterprises	624,425	692,286	899,489
Other	573,914	413,908	188,079
Impairment writedown on investment	-	17,202	238,095
	<u>13,706,745</u>	<u>12,407,863</u>	<u>11,179,070</u>
Annual surplus (Note 10)	2,547,919	3,008,532	1,060,409
Accumulated surplus, beginning of year	27,821,674	27,821,674	26,761,265
Accumulated surplus, end of year (Note 10)	<u>\$ 30,369,593</u>	<u>\$ 30,830,206</u>	<u>\$ 27,821,674</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Message from the Band Manager Glenn Forrest

As your Band Manager, I have been working on many projects and solutions over the past five (5) months. There have been many changes experienced by the organization and the Community.

COVID-19

Addressing the needs of the Community members regarding COVID-19 has been at the forefront. We remain committed to continue to send out messages that reminds us to:

- **DO NOT VISIT OTHER PEOPLE'S HOMES**
- Any gatherings/celebrations should only include members of an immediate household
- Wear a well-fitting 3-ply mask and practice physical distancing of 2-metres when out of your home to get essential supplies, groceries, medications, etc.
- Wash hands often and practice good hygiene
- Cover your cough or sneeze
- **IF YOU HAVE ANY SYMPTOMS**, even mild ones, get tested immediately and stay away from others as much as possible
- Wear a mask in your home if you have symptoms
- Self-isolate until you have your test results and are notified by your provider about next steps

We have had to experience new learning as we conduct many meetings utilizing ZOOM and Microsoft Teams platforms.

COMMUNICATIONS

There have been a number of mediums that we are utilizing to ensure that our communications reach as many citizens as possible.

1. Canada Post is utilized for handling our mailouts that show up in your mailbox at Birch Island.
2. Personal and Home Delivery happens either for the full Community or when we need to complete targeted deliveries like seniors. This is an effective means as we want to ensure the Community or target groups are informed of important matters. Currently, we prepare 180 flyers for delivery.
3. We have launched the WRFN APP for both Android and IOS smartphones. The APP allows us to operate in real time and once installed on your smartphone, you can receive notifications immediately. We have all received emergency and amber alerts on our smartphones, however, you can program your phone to switch Notifications ON.
4. The Facebook APP remains the popular platform for information sharing and it is easy to post pictures of posters and correspondence from the Nation. We have over 1,800 users that follow our Whitefish River Facebook page.
5. We also use Constant Contact that allows us to send bulk information to a group of emails and we have approximately 500 emails that will receive our posters and correspondence.
6. We have been on a learning curve in our participation in meetings while staying in the Community, and primarily use ZOOM and Microsoft Teams. Programs and services have had to grasp virtual sessions when we are unable to gather due to COVID-19.

FINANCIAL AUDIT

Financial stability is essential in planning and delivery of vital programs and services. I have reviewed the consolidated audits and the Financial Statements Reviews issued by Indigenous Services Canada.

The purpose of the Financial Statements Review is part of the transparency and accountability we are required to perform and the government utilizes three financial ratios, which serve as indicators of financial performance.

My examination of the feedback from Indigenous Services Canada shows that from 2014/2015 until 2019/2020 that all financial ratios were considered favourable when it comes to our liquidity ratio, sustainability ratio and working capital to revenue ratio. This is great news and sets the standard for us moving forward. I expect the 2021/2022 financial statements will continue to reflect favourable ratios.

When it comes to accounting, there may be difficulty in understanding our Consolidated Statement of Operations that roll up the total financial picture for Whitefish River First Nation. I offer you good news in that 2019/2020 annual surplus was \$3,008,532, which is consistent with 2018/2019 annual surplus of \$1,060,409. I am continuously watching our cash flows and we recorded \$4,543,795 for 2019/2020 and \$7,264,830 for 2018/2019.

We would be amiss if we did not acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our Finance Team. Thank you to David Shawanda, our Finance Director, and Zach Shawanda, our Finance Assistant. I am providing a special thank you for the dedication and commitment of our Finance Clerk, Theresa Recollet. She has worked for the Nation for over 37 years and we will keep her in our thoughts and prayers.

FINANCIAL FOR LEADERSHIP REMUNERATION

I understand that there has been information flowing regarding the Remuneration of Chief and Council. In 2015, our revenues totalled \$7,862,744 and in 2020, our revenues totalled \$15,416,395. The revenues for Whitefish River First Nation have increased by 49%, which is astounding. Leadership is represented by a Chief and seven Councillors and it is my belief that the increases in their remuneration were long overdue. Further, not one individual at WRFN exceeded the Sunshine List for Ontario and we are required to report annually on this matter. There are numerous Departments and Programs that we are required to provide reporting to the funders. The work and time involved for Leadership is essential in making the Community continuously and consistently moving forward.

HUMAN RESOURCES

In addressing the Human Resources vacancies, we have a process in place that we can fill the positions on an essential need basis. Our funders have provided us with the flexibility of moving our deferred revenue into the next fiscal year, 2021/2022. We have moved forward with a request for proposals to deal with the Organizational and Operational Review that will provide our Leadership with the state of affairs and recommendations for their review and implementation.

In addition to my Band Manager duties, I am completing the necessary duties for Human Resources and Public Works. I am also working closely with Finance to ensure continuity with David Shawanda working remotely.

Finally, I would like to take the time to thank those that have been supportive in coming to your Community and offer my all.



March 24, 2021

A PLACE OF VISIONS AND DREAMS

Dear Members of Whitefish River First Nation

Good news! In the December issue of the Rezound, we announced that the next phase of our Robinson Huron Treaty (RHT) land claim had begun. In this phase with the Province, we're going to go get our land back!

As you'll remember, we were successful in reaching a historic agreement with Canada on our RHT in the first phase of this process. That agreement was about compensation for about 101.4 square miles of lands that were not included in our reserve. You ratified that agreement with 96% support.

Now we are embarking on negotiations with Ontario on the return of lands identified in RHT land claim about our reserve land entitlement. Its wonderful news, the province has signalled a willingness to settle this outstanding claim, and it's an opportunity we won't squander. Getting our land back has always been central to our mission.

Going forward, we will focus our community discussion on our land. We are of this land, all of us together, and we will need to speak with one voice if we are to get it back. It's up to us to do the heavy lifting to clear a path for future generations to enjoy and protect what is rightfully ours.

Stay tuned for more information, everyone!

Whitefish River First Nation Chief and Council,

Chief Franklin Paibomsai

Councillor Esther Osche

Councillor Francis McGregor

Councillor Cara McGregor

Councillor Todd McGregor

Councillor Brian McGregor

Councillor Leona Nahwegahbow

Councillor David Shawanda

WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION

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Message from Ogimaa Shining Turtle Sturgeon Clan, Anishinabek Nation

It has been just over a year since the shadow of COVID-19 first darkened our world and changed so much about our lives at Whitefish River First Nation. We want to take stock of the year that was – our challenges and pain as well as our successes - so we can learn and do better in the months ahead.

As your Chief and Council, our greatest responsibility is the safety of band members living on reserve. After our first year of this pandemic, we are fortunate to say we have not had a single case of COVID-19 in our community. I know we can all count that as a genuine blessing from our Creator. However, the responsibility for our success rests squarely on each and every one of you who has made the sacrifices to keep each other safe. For every event, every gathering we've had to say no to, we've said yes to health and to life.

Throughout this unusual and difficult year, the daily needs of running our community have continued without pause. As your elected leadership, we remain committed to operating WFRN with transparency as we work diligently to assert and protect our Treaty and Aboriginal Rights, negotiate land claims, and run a membership that has grown to over 1400 members with an administration of close to 80 staff. Some very good results have come on the land claim front this year, among many other achievements our community can be proud of.

Along with these successes comes the grief of the shadow pandemic that is the drug crisis. This ongoing tragedy, along with other troubling side-effects of COVID-19, have drained us, and have been a heavy burden for us all to witness and carry.

As the pandemic marches on and we move into the vaccine roll out phase, we all know we need to stay the course. And after this year, we know how to do just that. We are confident that the future for the members of WFRN is very bright. We also know there is always room for improvement, and we welcome all views on how that improvement can happen. We are committed to working closely and collaboratively with all WFRN members who wish to be involved. Bring us your idea. The future belongs to all of us, and we can only build it if we work together. Please read on for a deeper look at this past year.

COVID-19 Year One in Review:

- In late February 2020, we became aware of the global situation arising from the novel coronavirus – COVID-19. Very little was known about the emergent global health pandemic.
- On March 9th, Chief and Council cancelled its participation in the 49th Annual LNHL that was to be held in Mississauga, Ontario. Saying “no” is never easy, but as time would show, this was really one of the best decisions for our community.
- From March 9th to 24th, Art Jacko, Angela Shawanda, Tiffany Gagan, Leslie Recollet and Andrea McGregor worked tirelessly to draft the Emergency Response Plan and Annex for use by the Council and Administration to combat COVID-19.
- On March 24th WFRN Chief and Council passed by-law 2020.01 concerning COVID-19. BCR 3878: “The Council hereby declares that a state of emergency exists on the Reserve because of the COVID-19 virus, in order to seek to prevent spreading of the COVID-19 virus amongst the members on reserve.” Art Jacko, Band Manager, was made Incident Commander.

- On March 31st, The Declaration of an Emergency was filed with both Canada and Ontario.
- On April 24th, amid growing cases of COVID-19 and the upcoming long weekend, the CCG recommended to Council that the community go to Phase 3 of the Emergency Response Plan and that the community be secured from outside traffic.
- On June 2nd, Esther Osche was named Incident Commander upon the departure of Art Jacko.
- The CCG recommended that the administration return to work on July 27th, 2020 following BCR – Preventing COVID-19 in the workplace.
- In September 2020, the CCG recommended to Council that the community could safely be moved out of Phase 3 of the Emergency Response Plan.
- The back to school policy was approved for the daycare and school in COVID-19 environment.
- Community events throughout the year were brought to membership using virtual tools and smaller gathering sizes for such events as Orange T-Shirt Day, Thanksgiving celebrations, Remembrance Day, Christmas Parade, and our annual Shawanosowe School Christmas Concert.
- Over the year, we provided so many letters, flyers, social media posts on everything COVID-19 that we honestly became inundated with information from news cycles to community flyers.

Other Significant Community Matters

- Starting in March 2020, the distribution of PCD per the Niigaan Naabidaa Trust began with the distribution of the \$25K per member. We have had over 90% of the total membership apply for and receive their \$25K as set out in the Niigaan Naabidaa Trust Agreement. Over \$25.85 million dollars was issued to the band members.
- Over the last year we have had many band members go to the spirit world. It has been very difficult and painful for our families and the community – particularly because of the restrictions on gatherings and ceremonies. Closure is an important step in our healing journey.
- Of the positive effects of the lock downs, we have seen a renewed focus on family, and an increased use of our lands and waters.

On the administrative side we have seen many projects move forward:

- Four new housing units being built on Maple Heights Road
- Virtual Grand Opening of our new Elders Centre
- Project Approval for our new 15-lot subdivision project
- Project Approval for new sewage lagoon/Septic System Study
- Project Approval for our landfill site closure
- Audit with annual surplus of over three million dollars
- Vaccinations of our most vulnerable
- WFRN App

This last year will mark a fundamental shift in the course of humanity – how we interact with each other, and with the broader world. As Chief and Council, we have maintained our focus on our greatest responsibility, the safety of band members living on reserve. Despite the hardship and sacrifices, we can all be very proud of our collective response. Together, we are building a bright future for everyone. Again, we can't thank you enough for all that you have done to keep our community safe.



A PLACE OF VISIONS AND DREAMS

COVID-19 UPDATE

FIRST DOSE VACCINATION SESSION

Please be advised that Monday, April 12th, 2021 will be the ***last first dose vaccination session*** for Whitefish River.

We encourage the remaining WRFN Community members to sign up for our final vaccination session.

Please call our Health Centre at 705-285-4354 and speak with Angela or Talon to get the facts of COVID-19 and the vaccines.

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