



September 2025
Waabaagaa Giizis
Colouring Leaves Moon

THE REZOUND

Bmakzhiwe. Go by canoe.



Pictured (l-r) Instructor Sarah Sandy, Jordan Marsolais, Riley Stead, Miles Jacko, Instructor Denis Thibeault, Instructor Dave Mitchell, Hope McGregor, Kyanna McKeever, Justin McGregor, Zachary McGregor, & Wiidookaage Waabandan Inc. Youth Prevention Lead Brooke Debasige.

Seven youth from Whitefish River First Nation took part in a four-day, 26-kilometre **Experiential Outdoor Leadership Training trip**, organized by Whitefish River First Nation Family Well-Being. Led by **WenDARE Outdoor & On-the-land Sector Services and Training** instructors Dave Mitchell, Sarah Sandy, and Denis Thibeault, the group canoed, portaged, and camped throughout WRFN's Traditional Territory. The journey challenged them physically and mentally, while teaching essential land-based skills like fire-building, outdoor cooking, navigation, and camp setup. Evenings around the fire were filled with laughter, and reflections from the time spent out on the land.

The group was welcomed home with a community feast as well as kind words and heartfelt praise for their accomplishments offered by Councillors Jeff McGregor and Esther Osche, along with Family Well-Being Manager Martha

Pitawanakwat. Councillor Esther Osche reminded the youth, *“Long ago, our people travelled by canoe. The water was their highway and the canoe was their mode of transportation. I ask you to think about the strength of our people—physically, genetically—you come from that legacy. Remember that. Carry it with pride.”*

The youth returned home carrying so many new skills, lasting memories, and a renewed connection to the land, that we look forward to making this an annual event. ***Debwe'endizan. Believe in yourself.***

Please note that the deadline for submissions for the next issue is
Friday, September 12, 2025 at 4:30.

Miigwech!

rezoundeditor@whitefishriver.ca

“A Place of Visions and Dreams”



Name: Felicity Paibornsai-Prince aka "Fefe"
Title: Summer Student Liaison
Motto: "Are you kidding me"
Pet Peeve: Having to park my car in a crowded lot.



Name: Sierra McGregor
Title: Daycare Assistant



Name: Rory Bowerman aka "Ror"
Title: Daycare Assistant
Motto: Be the change you want to see.
Pet Peeve: Slow walkers.



Name: Victoria Nahwegahbow aka "Vicky"
Title: Education Department Student
Pet Peeve: Mottos



Name: Nakia Nahwegahbow aka "Kia"
Title: Facilities
Motto: Did I really just forget that melody?
Pet Peeve: Loud chewers.



Name: Aurora McGregor aka "Ra"
Title: FVB Summer Student
Pet Peeve: Missing marker lids.



Name: Melody Hester aka "Hester"
Title: FVB Summer Student
Motto: Real G's move in silence like lasagna.
Pet Peeve: Messy workspace.



Name: Raidyn Waboose
Title: Anishinaabe Aadziwin Apprentice



Name: Lila Garcia aka "Lil G"
Title: Anishinaabe Aadziwin Apprentice
Motto: When life gives you lemons, you make lemonade.
Pet Peeve: Dirty Converse



Name: Lucy Paibornsai aka "Luce"
Title: Anishinaabe Aadziwin Apprentice
Motto: Always be kind.
Pet Peeve: Loud chewing.



Name: Daniel Morningstar aka "Danielson"
Title: Anishinaabe Aadziwin Apprentice
Motto: "Aanii"
Pet Peeve: Loud snoring.

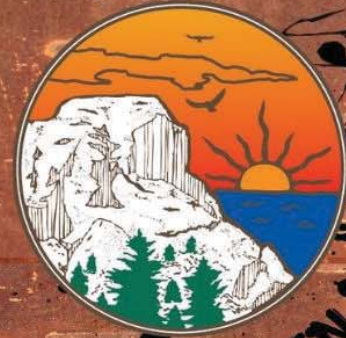


Name: Dakota Crowe aka "Dak"
Title: Anishinaabe Aadziwin Apprentice
Motto: The heck!
Pet Peeve: Loud chewing.

2025 WRFN SUMMER STUDENT HALL OF FAME!

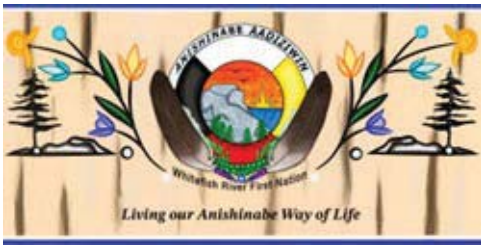


Name: Jackson Waboose aka "Jax"
Title: Lands Department Student
Motto: I'll do it tomorrow
Pet Peeve: When people are loud for no reason.



OKODEN

Anishinaabe Aadziwin Coordinator - Candice Wigwas



“Living our Anishinaabe Way of Life to reach our full potential as individuals, family, and community”

Aanii Kina Wiiya,
We hope you've enjoyed Niibin (Summer). Here are some updates and a look at what's ahead for the final stretch of this season and the season to come.

In July we welcomed five **Anishinaabe Aadziwin Cultural Experience Students**: Daniel Morningstar, Dakota Crowe, Rayden Waboose, Lila Garcia, and Lucy Paibomsai. They have been busy learning, and we are thrilled to have their bright insights and enthusiasm on our team.

From July 22 - 24, 2025 we attended two days so of meetings with the **Anishinaabemowin Be Be Miikmaangek Ji Bi Aanji Bimaadiziimgak Naakni-gewin**, hosted by RHT **Anishinaabemowin Revitalization Strategy Group** in Sudbury. Youth had the opportunity to sit with Elders and change makers from across our territory to listen to two days of fluent Anishinabemowin conversations. They also had the opportunity to hear the concerns from the Elders in our territory regarding Anishinabemowin revitalization challenges. The Youth Apprentices were able to share their concerns with the Elders and had the opportunity to share the challenges they face within the public school system to learn the language. They also provided valuable feedback on what they would like to see for revitalizing Anishinaabemowin language in our communities. We enjoyed hearing the elders speak in the language during the two-day meetings and the enthusiasm to kick-start these initiatives to promote our language.

The Anishinaabe Aadziwin Team along with one of our Youth Apprentices in community have been invited to share at the **RHT 1850: 175th Anniversary Gathering in Baawaating First Nation on September 8th, 2025**, to be a part of The Anishinaabemowin Nbwaaajidiwin Panel. *The purpose of the panel is to highlight the work underway to develop a Robinson Huron Treaty Anishinaabemowin Revitalization Strategy in collaboration with the 21 RHT First Nations. Daniel Morningstar, Anishinaabe Aadziwin Youth Apprentice, and the Anishinaabe Aadziwin Team has been asked to represent as a Community Language Champion.* The goal is to share reflections from recent engagement sessions and offer guidance on how we can strengthen the transmission of Anishinaabemowin to future generations in our communities.

Following this, we attended **Rattlechild Sundance in Henvey Inlet**, and the youth were able to have a firsthand learning experience for this amazing ceremony. As soon as we arrived, we set up camp

for the weekend, and the Youth Apprentices were involved in the ceremony right away. They were able to participate and observe as helpers in the ceremony from beginning to end. From the start of harvesting the main tree and putting it in the earth, they put all their tobacco offerings in for prayers for self and community, to completing the building of the lodge and supporting all aspects of the ceremony until the end. They worked very hard and supported the Sundancers from sunrise to sunset. They even learned how to make and fix eagle whistles for the dancers. They learned the significance and protocols of the Sundance as well as the teachings on men's and women's roles. They had the opportunity to participate and witness various ceremonies such as: the buffalo dance, the piercing ceremonies, the moon lodge, the doctoring ceremony, Wiidookaan ceremony, an adoption ceremony, and the children's ceremony. We are so very proud of them and all their efforts!

On July 30th we went to **Binoojiinh Noodowaa'aan Chinshinaaben Pasaweshinanid - The Children Hear the Echoes of our Ancestors**. A language conference with emphasis on the Seven Grandfather Teachings, in Wiikwemkong. We walked around and listened to different teachings at tipis with language speakers, learnt the process of making picnic tables, and played Anishinaabemowin Bingo. It was beautiful hearing Anishinaabemowin spoken, and we hope to continue to find opportunities to learn the language as much as possible.

Coming Up

Dancing Around the Circle- Regalia making with Sophie Pheasant coming up starting in the beginning of Fall into Winter season. There are sixteen sessions with knowledge sharing/ transference of history, stories of song and dance along with the Regalia designing.

If you wish to register as a participant, please contact Grace Manitowabi gracem@whitefishriver.ca

Fall Fast - Mark your calendars for October 1-5, 2025, for this year's Fall Fast located here in WRFN in beautiful

Sunshine Alley! Together we can help build strong connections with our community through ceremony. If you want to register as a helper or faster, please contact Grace Manitowabi, Anishinaabe Aadziwin Apprentice at gracem@whitefishriver.ca or Candice Wigwas, Anishinaabe Aadziwin Coordinator at candicej@whitefishriver.ca or by phone at 705-285-4335. We will be having information sessions on the following dates in community, Location to be determined. Please keep an eye out for a poster.

- **September 2, 2025, at 5:00pm – Fall Fast 2025 Helpers meeting (Dinner included)** For community members who want to participate as a helper with community members. If your thinking of coming as a helper or going in as a faster, this is a good meeting to attend.
- **Tuesday, September 16th, 2025, at 5:00pm – Fall Faster Information Session (Dinner Included)** This is for individuals who are seeking guidance and want more information on fasting.

Under Construction: Coming Soon!
 🍁 **September and October 2025** 🍁
Youth Apprenticeship Program - Hunting and Harvesting Weekends

Wishing you a productive and inspiring September!
 — The Anishinaabe Aadziwin Team

ENTERING THE DANCE CIRCLE

"REVITALIZATION OF ANISHINAABE CULTURE & HERITAGE, AN INITIATIVE SUPPORTED BY ANISHINAABE AADIZIWIN, WAWASKINIGAA"

MAAJTAA

- Session 1: Introduction to Regalia Making & Dance Styles
- Session 2: Sewing Skills: Basic Operations
- Session 3: Designing & Tribal Identity
- Session 4: Introduction to Applique & Beading 101

O'ZHITOOON

- Session 5: Moccasin Making - Plains Style
- Session 6: Leggings & Cuffs
- Session 7: Yokes, Aprons & other Regalia items
- Session 8: T-Dress/Day Dress
- Session 9: T-Dress/Day Dress
- Session 10: Shawl Making - Original Style & Contemporary
- Session 11: The ART of Jingle Dress Making *WEEKEND*
- Session 12: Assembling Regalia | Pow-wow Prep

GIIZHIITAA

- Session 13: Dance Hoops & Hair Ties plus Hair Braiding
- Session 14: Assembling Regalia | Pow-wow Prep
- Session 15: Taking Care of Regalia & other protocols
- Session 16: Entering the Dance Circle

Regalia Making Fall 2025/Winter 2026 for men's & women's dance styles

To register, please contact:
 Grace Manitowabi, Anishinaabe Aadziwin Apprentice
 PHONE: 705-285-4335 x2237
 EMAIL: Gracem@whitefishriver.ca

Anishinabe Aadziwin Cultural Experience Opportunity 2025: Youth Apprenticeship Sundance Ceremony Experience

Anishinaabe Aadziwin was invited to attend the **Annual Rattle-child Sundance Ceremony**, hosted by Henvey Inlet First Nation. Harry Snowboy is the Sundance Chief whose family facilitates this, along with other Sundance members. From July 25 - 27, 2025 we joined them for this powerful healing ceremony.

The Youth Apprentices who are with us for the Summer Cultural Experience accompanied us to the ceremony. The purpose of the Anishinabe Aadziwin group is to provide opportunities to gain firsthand experience with different ceremonies. They are also building real-world skills, building social skills, and making a meaningful impact in our community. In the beginning of their apprenticeship, they created a plan of what they hoped to accomplish and learn during their summer. A shared feeling expressed by this group was that youth don't have much knowledge about their culture and identified specifically, ceremony, and they felt they lacked opportunities to attend ceremonies to grow spiritually. One youth said they desired more teachings on medicines as well.

Sundance was the perfect opportunity to invite them to a ceremony. This was an incredible experience as they were able to get hands-on guidance from the Sundance family and the ceremony community in our Territory, and the vast knowledge from so many others on the emotional, physical, and spiritual components needed to make it possible. All of them were involved in the beginning, middle and end of this ceremony. This was their first Sundance, so we asked them to write about their experiences.

Rayden:
"I like to be around others that like the culture as much as I do. Having people around that trust each other is really wonderful. Also, feeling that spiritual connection I had when I was there it felt special to me. Hugging that tree reminded me of my dad's embrace, which I needed at that time. I have lots of respect for them and that place I would love to go again."

Daniel: (on Sundance ceremonies)
"My three favourites were The Buffalo Dance, the wiidookaan, and the doctoring, to me were the most powerful ceremonies ever. Sundance was awesome, I never thought I could learn so much in just three days, meeting everyone with the time spent is a feeling I will nurture forever. Can't wait for next year!"

Lila: (had prior commitments but described previous Sundance experience)
"Why I think Sundance is important is because it's a ceremony that heals people and it's a very emotional ceremony. My experience of Sundance was a very powerful experience, and I would love to go to Sundance again."

Lucy:
"My experience at Sundance was positive and it is definitely something I would be interested in doing again. This Sundance was my first time attending one, so I wasn't sure on what to expect but it was all so interesting." "Being able to experience so much culture, hear so many stories, connect with so many people, and learn so much new stuff. I am so glad I was able to experience Sundance."



The Youth Apprentices played Anishnaabemowin Bingo at the **Binoojinh Noodowaa'aan Chinshinaaben Pasaweshinanid - The Children Hear the Echoes of our Ancestors** language conference held in Wiikwemkong on July 30, 2025.

ANISHINABE AADZIWIN
Whitefish River First Nation

SAVE THE DATE

FALL FAST

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THIS YEAR'S FASTING CEREMONY
BUILD STRONG CONNECTIONS WITH OUR COMMUNITY

OCTOBER 1-5 2025

WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION
SUNSHINE ALLEY
IF YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE AS A HELPER OR FASTER
CONTACT CANDICE WIGWAS,
ANISHINAABE AADZIWIN COORDINATOR
CANDICEJ@WHITEFISHRIVER.CA
705-285-4335 EX 2211

Nongwa maajitaan wii anishinaabemyin gegwa baabiitooke baamaa waabang, gnimaa zaam weykaa adaa'wan.

Start speaking Anishinaabemowin today. Don't wait until tomorrow, it might be too late.

Family Well-Being Manager - Martha "Maawdii" Pitawanakwat

Whitefish River First Nation Family Well-Being: Summer 2025 Update

Since July, the Family Well-Being team has been joyfully busy hosting our first-ever **Family Well-Being Summer Camp**—a five-week journey filled with laughter, learning, and cultural connection. Each day, we welcomed an average of 15–20 little friends, offering them a safe and nurturing space to grow, play, and explore.

A Summer of Themes and Traditions

Each week of camp was built around a special theme, culminating in our final Culture Week, where traditions and language took center stage. Every morning began with a smudge and Ojibway prayer, encouraging the children to carry forward what they've learned in school and deepen their connection to their heritage. With support from the AES Language Initiative and guidance from Ms. Lynn McGregor, we proudly integrated Ojibway language into daily activities. Visits from Elder Gloria Oshkawbisens-McGregor and collaboration with other community services enriched the experience even further.

To continue the journey beyond camp, each child will take home a box of learning materials—including numbers, colours, and basic introductions—to help preserve and celebrate the Ojibway language. We hope this small gift contributes to a lifelong love of language and culture.

Nourishing Body and Spirit

Campers were provided with breakfast, lunch, and snacks each day, ensuring they were well-fed and energized for all the fun ahead. From crafts to games to cultural teachings, every moment was designed to uplift and inspire.

Community Engagement and Connection

Beyond the camp, Family Well-Being hosted two engagement sessions with Elders and couples aboard a Sunset Cruise—a beautiful evening of catered meals, games, and heartfelt conversations. These gatherings offered a safe and welcoming space to hear from all age groups about their hopes for future programming.

The FWB and Health teams shared their roles and responsibilities, fostering meaningful dialogue and connection in a neutral, relaxed setting.

Youth Adventures and Celebrations

A special shoutout to all youth who joined the **18+ Portage Trip 2025**, where participants earned certificates from **Dave Mitchell – Paddle Canada**. We're thrilled to announce this will become an annual tradition.

We also eagerly attended the **Manitoulin Pride Gathering** on August 8—a night of powerful singing and celebration. The following evening, we held a **Full Moon Ceremony**, with deep gratitude to Elder Arlene Pitawanakwat and Fire Keeper Nakia Nahwegahbow for leading the way.

Several memorable events were hosted in August for the White River First Nation community. On August 18–19, the **Elders Gathering** took place, organized in collaboration with WRFN Seniors Navigator, Kiki Pelletier. This special event brought together Elders for two days of connection, storytelling, and shared wisdom. Meanwhile, on August 18, **Youth from the community enjoyed an exciting trip to Canada's Wonderland**, creating fun summer memories. To wrap up the season, the **End of Summer Bash was held on August 22 at Hilly Acres** in partnership with the Economic Development team, offering an evening of food, entertainment, and celebration.

Upcoming Events

• **Full Moon Ceremony also known as the Corn Moon – Sunday, September 7, 2025, Sacred Fire Arbour**

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Chief and Council, Management, and all community members for your continued support. Your encouragement makes these programs possible—and meaningful.

To all our little friends: we wish you a joyful and successful start to the school year. You've made this summer unforgettable.

Miigwetch,
**Whitefish River First Nation
Family Well Being Team
705-285-1941**

Family Well-Being Executive Assistant - Daniya Ann John



My name is Daniya Ann John, and I'm excited to have recently joined the Family Well-Being Department as the new Executive Assistant. I'm originally from Kerala, India, and came to Canada in April 2021. Since then, Canada has become my second home, and I've been fortunate to meet wonderful people and learn so much along the way.

I have a background in Administration and a passion for helping people, and I'm looking forward to supporting our programs, coordinating

events, and contributing to the work we do to strengthen families and the community.

Outside of work, I enjoy exploring new places, trying out different cuisines, photography, and spending time with friends and family, and I have a special love for driving and cars. I also enjoy learning about new cultures and traditions which is one of the many reasons I'm so excited to be here.

I'm eager to get to know everyone,

learn more about the culture and traditions of Whitefish River First Nation, and be part of the positive change our department works toward every day. If you see me around, please say hello - I'd love to meet you!

To contact me, please call the Family Well-Being office at **705-285-1941** or email me at daniyaAJ@whitefishriver.ca.

Warmly,
Daniya

Residential Tenancy Law

DID YOU KNOW?

- Under Ontario's Residential Tenancies Act, you have the right to receive at least 24 hours written notice before your landlord enters your unit!
- What this means for you:** Your landlord must provide written notice. The notice must specify the date, time, and reason for entry. Entry should be between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Emergencies are the only exception to this rule.
- Pro Tip:** Keep a copy of all notices received from your landlord. Take photos of posted notices with your phone!
- Text is not an appropriate means of communication and does not hold up in an LTB hearing. Notices are to be in your email, taped to your door, or hand delivered.
- Police **will not** get involved in Landlord and Tenant disputes. The Landlord and Tenant Board are the only ones that can issue orders or enforce notices. Only the LTB can evict.
- Remember:** A notice is just that, a notice. You have rights, reach out to the housing navigator if you think your rights are being violated.

Contact:
Housing Navigation Worker
(705) 285-1942 x 2422
HousingNavigator@whitefishriver.ca

funded in part by: United Way Centralide Sincee Mubaka

Education Manager - Anita McGregor



Aanii from the Education Department. Chi-miigwech for this opportunity. I am honoured to step into this role and look forward to working with learners of all levels. As we begin a new academic year, the Education Department remains committed to supporting students of all ages in their learning pathways. From our youngest learners in daycare to those preparing for post-secondary education, each stage of growth and achievement is embraced with excitement, encouragement, and a shared commitment to success.

• New Fall Semester for Post-Secondary Students
As summer winds down, we prepare to welcome a new academic year. The Education Department has been busy reviewing post-secondary student files, ensuring that all required documentation is on record, and preparing student allowances. We have been working diligently to organize and update files, so everything is ready for the year

ahead.
This year, Whitefish River First Nation is proud to sponsor **89 Post-Secondary Students** in their educational journeys.

Gentle reminder to the students If there are any changes to your studies, please contact the Education Department as soon as possible—we are here to support you in any way we can. **We wish you every success in the 2025–2026 academic year!**

• Post-Secondary Sponsorship
We have had many inquiries regarding post-secondary sponsorship. If you are applying for new or continued sponsorship, you must submit an application for post-secondary funding each year. The application process opens every February, with a deadline of May 31st annually.

• Bus Transportation
Whitefish River First Nation has contracted busing services for our students attending A.B. Ellis and Espanola High School. Currently, we have one school bus in operation for our local school run.

We would like to remind parents and students of the importance of student accountability while riding the bus. A safe and respectful environment is necessary for all students and the driver. Miigwech for your cooperation in ensuring safe and reliable transportation for our students. School bus transportation is a privilege.

• Maamwe Kendaasing Update
I am pleased to announce that Cyndil Corbiere has stepped into the role of Child Care Supervisor. Cyndil has transitioned smoothly into her new position, and we are confident in her leadership. We

look forward to her continued success and positive impact at the daycare.

• 2025 Celebration of Academics
On August 15th, we proudly hosted the 2025 Celebration of Academics to honour our graduates — from our youngest learners in daycare to those completing their post-secondary journeys.

“Oh, the Places You’ll Go” was the theme of the evening, reminding us of all the bright futures that lie ahead. This year, we were pleased to recognize and celebrate 45 students for their hard work and achievements.

A heartfelt miigwech to Beverly Nahwegahbow, Courtney Jacko, Victoria Nahwegahbow, and Cyndil Corbiere for their dedication and preparation in making the evening such a success.

Congratulations once again to all our graduates — we are so proud of you! 🎓

• Looking Ahead
As we look ahead, the Education Department remains committed to supporting every student’s success by providing meaningful opportunities and resources. We encourage both students and parents to stay engaged, ask questions, and make the most of the support available.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please don’t hesitate to reach out—we value your input and look forward to working together.

Anita McGregor, Education Manager
education@whitefishriver.ca
705-285-4335, ext. 2209



POW WOW SOCIAL
Whitefish River First Nation

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Time: 5:30pm - 8:00pm

Location: Shawanosow School
321 Maple Heights Rd
Whitefish River First Nation

*Catering by Morning Star Catering

- Informal Drum Social
- Everyone Welcome
- Spot Dance & Prizes

For information, contact:

Arianna Pitawanakwat
(705) 285-4354 Ext. 2307
Whitefish River First Nation
or
Rebecca Dantouze
(705) 968-0631
Noojmowin Teg Health Centre



Noojmowin Teg Health Centre
A place of healing

For more information, visit nthc.ca or call (705) 968-0631



On August 15, 2025, WRFN Education hosted the 2025 Celebration of Academics to honour all graduates — from daycare to post-secondary! 🎓

Minochigeg giinawaa gakina gikinoo’amaaganag gii-ishkwaach!
Congratulations to all of you students for graduating.
Kina Goji Wa’Paazhizhaayin!
The Places You’ll Go!

HR Manager - Andrea McGregor

☀ Summer Update

Niibiin is now winding down here in Whitefish River. At the beginning of summer, on June 27th, 2025, an **Employee Appreciation Day** was held to recognize all staff of Whitefish River First Nation. Through the work of a dedicated planning committee and feedback from staff, a day was planned which allowed employees to engage with each other, those who they might not see on a day-to-day basis (including WRFN's teaching/childcare staff). With most events planned for outdoors, we had to work with Mother Nature and unfortunately shift all activities indoors. Even with the changes, the day was still filled with joy, laughter, and gratitude, creating a positive and lively atmosphere that strengthened engagement within our workplace.

As part of the day, we took the time to acknowledge and announce all the new members of WRFN Staff, followed by distribution of **Certificates of Appreciation** to milestone employees:

• 5 Years of Service

- Zach Shawanda, Payables and Payroll Clerk
- Gail Pelletier, Seniors Navigator
- Jessica Reynish, Teacher (formerly EA)
- Keith Nahwegahbow, Lands Director (formerly Lands Officer)
- Tracy Megwanabe, Teacher (formerly EA)
- Stephen McGregor, Consultation Coordinator
- Kendra McGregor, Tenant Relations Worker

Francis McGregor, Public Works Manager
 Maryann MacDonald, School Custodian
 Courtney Jacko, Student Success & Engagement Coordinator

Diane Gaudette, Revenue & Receivables Clerk
 Cyndil Corbiere, Childcare Supervisor (formerly RECE)

Talon Chin-McGregor, Community Health Nurse
 Danielle Caicco, Educational Assistant

• 10 years of service

Kim Laundrie, Logistics Manager

• 15 years of service

JoAnn Recollet, RECE

Emma Recollet, Health Manager/Ontario Works Administrator

Kathleen Migwanabi, Lands Manager

• 20 years of service

Danette McGregor, Anishinabemowin Language Teacher

• 25 years of service

Georgina Recollet, Housing Manager

Cathy McGregor, Health Receptionist

Looking ahead, the last of three series of Mental Health First Aid Certifications is scheduled for the Fall, along with 2SLGBTQIA+ Training/Education for the Managers and Supervisors.

For more information, I can be reached at **705-285-4335 ext. 2212** or by email at hrmanager@whitefishriver.ca.



Chi-Miigwech to Health Receptionist, Cathy McGregor on 25 Years with WRFN!



Chi-Miigwech to Housing Manager, Georgina Recollet on 25 Years with WRFN!

Communications Manager - Riley Adams



ing downtown Toronto experience.

About Me

I grew up along the North Shore and hold a Bachelor's in Communications from Laurentian University and a Master of Arts in Professional Communication from Royal Roads University. I've spent the last several years helping Indigenous, municipal, provincial and B2B communities stay informed and connected. Outside of work, you'll usually find me fishing on Lake Huron or hanging out with Bisco, my Border Collie/Aussie mix. I'm looking forward to meeting you, so don't be shy to say aanii at the next community event!

For more information, I can be reached at **705-285-4335 ext. 2242** or by email at radams@whitefishriver.ca.

Aanii Kina Wiya, I'm Riley Adams! I'm thrilled to be your new **Communications Manager**, and I want to hear from you. Our communications survey is your chance to tell us what's working, what's missing, and how we can do better. Every voice matters, so please take a few minutes to share your thoughts. I can't wait to hear from you! PS - when you submit your responses, you'll have a chance to win an amaz-



BETTER TALK. STRONGER NATION.

Take the communications survey.

As a thank you, you'll be entered to win the Raptors Slam Dunk Getaway!

- 2 Toronto Raptors tickets
- 2 Ripley's Aquarium tickets
- 1 night-stay at a downtown hotel
- \$500 prepaid Visa



 <https://forms.office.com/r/ttheYY3MiQ>

**survey and draw open to all WRFN members*

Missed an issue of The Rezound?
 Find them online at www.whitefishriver.ca



Community Energy Champion - Joey Nahwegahbow

Whitefish River youth dove into the exciting world of science this summer! The Energy department has had a busy and thrilling summer, and we're excited to share some of the highlights.

Summer Science Camps

This year, WRFN hosted two amazing science camps for youth! The first adventure was a five-day camp at the Elephant Thoughts Riverstone Campus in Durham, Ontario. The campers started their journey with a scenic ferry ride on the Chi-Cheemaun and arrived ready for a week of hands-on learning. From pedalling a bicycle to power a blender for breakfast to an unforgettable visit to the Bruce Power Nuclear facility, every day was packed with science-based fun. The group returned on Friday night, exhausted but brimming with incredible stories and new knowledge!

Following that was the University of Waterloo STEM camp, hosted here at the 7 Fires Youth and Elder's Center. We're thrilled that WRFN's Species at Risk Biologist, Reta Meng, could share updates on the WRFN turtle incubation project, Blanding's Turtles and the Alvars. The youth had the opportunity to meet the newly hatched baby turtles before they were released back into their original nesting areas. The University of Waterloo students promised a week full of fun and learning that the youth won't soon forget! Stay tuned next month for the after-action report from the STEM Camp.

Solar Streetlight Project

We are excited to announce **two new solar-powered streetlights** at the intersections of **Highway 6 & Shebawenening Miikun** and **Highway 6 & Sunshine Alley Road!**

These brand-new, 100-watt LED streetlights were secured through a special funding program to test solar lighting solutions. They were installed by the amazing team at JJ Poleline and came at absolutely no cost to our community!

Powered entirely by the sun, these lights are a bright, sustainable solution for our community. With an expected lifespan of 15-20 years and minimal maintenance, they will continue to light up these intersections for a long time to come. It's a great step toward a greener, more sustainable future for us all!

Need to talk energy? I'm here to help! As Community Energy Champion, our program can offer information on practical energy efficiency measures, renewable energy solutions, and the latest on electric vehicles (EVs). We can also explore various government funding programs and other exciting initiatives that can benefit you.

Feel free to reach out to me at joeyn@whitefishriver.ca or call me at 705-285-4335 ext. 2222. I look forward to connecting with community members to explore a more sustainable future together!



☀️ A new solar-powered street light was installed by Hwy 6 & Sunshine Alley Rd. to provide efficient, eco-friendly lighting using the power of the sun.

TAX & CONSULTING SERVICES

Support Delivered by Sudbury Community Services

- September 25th, 2025 → 10AM - 3PM
- October 23rd, 2025 → 10AM - 3PM
- November 27th, 2025 → 10AM - 3PM

- 📄 Filing your taxes
- 📄 Birth Certificates
- 📄 Budgeting

Contact Kendra McGregor for an Appointment
kendra.mcgregor@whitefishriver.ca or
 705-285-4335 ext. 2213



WRFN EDO Stuart Wilson presenting the Traeger Grill to Samantha Solomon, winner of the Economic Development Survey draw conducted in partnership with Shared Value Solutions in partnership with KGHM/FNX Mining. The survey helped gather important community input to guide future economic development opportunities.

Congratulations Samantha & miigwech for participating!

**SEPTEMBER 30
 NATIONAL DAY FOR
 TRUTH AND
 RECONCILIATION
 EVERY CHILD MATTERS**

Marine and Emergency Liaison Officer - Jordan Marsolais

Aanii, Whitefish River community members,

I'm pleased to share our latest updates and initiatives in marine safety, emergency preparedness, and emergency services.

• **Whitefish River Coast Guard Auxiliary**

Certified Members:

- Kathleen Migwanabi
- Jeff Tuerk
- Winnie Paibomsai
- Jill Ferguson
- Jordan Marsolais

Certification processing has been seeing some delays at the Coast Guard Auxiliary, however once certifications have been processed the Whitefish River Search & Rescue Team will begin:

- Responding to marine emergency calls
- Conducting regular training exercises
- Patrolling local waters to ensure public safety

• **WRFN Emergency First Response Team (EFRT)**

We are pleased to announce that the Emergency First Response Team has been activated as of July 28th, 2025.

Our original training took place in January 2025, however, it took 5 to 6

months to acquire a dedicated vehicle for the team. The medical transportation van, graciously donated by the Health Center, now resides at the Birch Island Firehall. Due to the time gap between the initial training and the practical application of skills, our trainer from Regional Training organized a 1 to 2 day refresher course. Please join me in congratulating our first response team on completing their training and re-certification:

- Paul Nolan
- Carson Pitawanakwat
- Tania Jacko
- Jordan Marsolais

We have since received all necessary equipment to respond effectively to Priority 4 (life-threatening) medical calls within our territory, including motor vehicle accidents along Highway 6 (within our boundaries). All training and equipment, along with vehicle fuel and maintenance, are provided to our community at no cost through the Ministry of Health and Regional Training.

Now that we are active, we have submitted applications for:

- A proper emergency response vehicle
- Radios
- Installation of a paging system

These applications can take one to

two years due to Ministry budgets and equipment availability. However, we have been informed that Ontario's Air Ambulance and Related Medical Transport service, (ORNGE) will take over Ontario's First Response Teams on September 30th, 2025. With ORNGE's larger budget, these resources may arrive sooner. Another exciting development is ORNGE's plan to transition emergency first response volunteers to paid on-call positions. While the pay rates are not yet known, updates will be shared in the October Rezound.

Current Goals:

- Reduce response times for critical incidents
 - Provide life-supporting care until paramedics arrive
 - Expand team from 4 to 10-15 members for sustainable scheduling
- Recruitment: If you are 18+ and interested in joining, contact us today!**

• **Birch Island Volunteer Fire Department**

In partnership with Richard Shawanda and the Fire Department, we continue work to:

- Update fire safety and evacuation plans for public buildings
- Improve lockdown and safety procedures at Shawanosowe School and the daycare

- Update and improve Fire Fighter Training, PPE and equipment
- **Get Involved**

Volunteer opportunities are available with:

- Coast Guard Auxiliary
- Emergency First Response Team
- Fire Department

Email: jmarsolais@whitefishriver.ca

Office: 705-285-1812

Direct: 613-315-5673

Miigwetch for your continued support in keeping Whitefish River First Nation safe and prepared.

Sincerely,
Jordan Marsolais
Marine & Emergency Liaison Officer
Whitefish River First Nation



Shirley & Jim Fielding Northeast Cancer Centre
INDIGENOUS HEALTH GOLF BENEFIT
SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

TIMBERWOLF GOLF CLUB
SUDBURY ONTARIO

SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER

SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS PATIENTS

EVENT DETAILS

- 18 holes
- 11:30 am registration
- 12:30 pm shotgun start
- 4 person scramble
- \$1,000 per team
- Includes: Golf carts, lunch, dinner, & prizes!

Hole in One Sponsor
Crosstown

705-523-7100 ext 2629
indigenoushealth@hsnsudbury.ca

Shirley and Jim Fielding Northeast Cancer Centre Health Sciences North
Centre de cancérologie du Nord-Est Shirley et Jim Fielding Horizon Santé-Nord

Indigenous Health Health Sciences North
Santé des Autochtones Horizon Santé-Nord

Fondation HSN Foundation



WenDARE – Experiential Outdoor Leadership Training (August 5-8, 2025)

This incredible Youth Group earned four certifications throughout the training: **Introduction & Intermediate Tandem Canoe Skills (Paddle Canada)**, **Basic Camping (Paddle Canada)**, and **Leave No Trace Awareness Certification**.

These certifications support pathways into outdoor guiding, leadership, and on-the-land therapy. **Leave No Trace Awareness** is a course designed to assist people in understanding how to treat the land in a respectful way so that many generations can enjoy and live in harmony together with a limited impact environmentally. The training was enriched by the Seven Grandfather Teachings—blending technical skills with cultural and environmental awareness. A powerful step in learning, healing, and leading together outdoors!

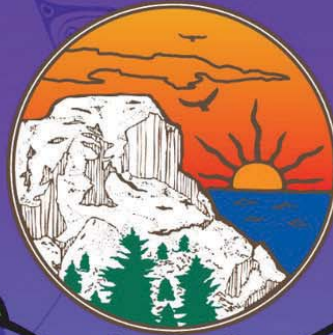
ARTWORK: "DREAMER'S ROCK" BY JAMES SIMON MISHIBINIJIMA (1954)

Wawaskinaga Pow Wow

SEPTEMBER 20-21, 2025

Location:

37 Ogimma Wabakekik Rd.,
Birch Island, ONT
(Baseball/Soccer field beside
the Shawanosowe School)



Rough Camping
Available at Sunshine
Alley, must sign up for a
camping pass.



Head Staff

Saturday:

Breakfast & Dinner
Feast

Location:
Community Centre

Sunday:

Bagged Lunches

Location: Pow Wow
Grounds

Master of Ceremonies

Greg Sutherland & Waagosh

Head Veteran

TBD

Head Elder Dancers

TBD & Maretta Jones

Head Adult Dancers

Wesley Cleland & Chelsey Recollet

Head Youth Dancers

Wassnode Recollet & Athena Jacko

Arena Director

Sunset Sagutch

Host Drum

Chippewa Travellers

Co-Host Drum

Little Creek Singers

Invited Drum

Island Boys Singers

Community

&

Dance Specials!

-Welcoming New Dancers

-Adult, Teen and Junior
Specials

-more specials to be
announced closer to the pow
wow date!

For more information, contact:
Amelia McGregor, Event Coordinator
WRFN Administration:
705-285-4335 ext.2450
Email:
eventcoordinator@whitefishriver.ca

Whitefish River First Nation

is not responsible for loss, stolen, damaged
items or shortage of travel funds.

ABSOLUTELY NO DRUGS OR ALCOHOL

Platinum and Gold Sponsors:





CO-ED SWEATLODGE CEREMONY

with Knowledge Keeper Daniel Garcia

Dates:
 Wednesday, August 13, 2025
 Wednesday, September 17, 2025
 Wednesday, October 15, 2025
 Wednesday, November 12, 2025
 Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Arrival Time: 5:00PM (Or 30 minutes earlier for sweat preparation. Sweat begins at 5:30pm).
**We invite all participants to actively contribute to the preparation of the ceremony and cleanup afterward. Your involvement as an active participant makes the ceremony a success.*

FEAST TO FOLLOW
 **Co-ed Sweat

Location: Noojmowin Teg Satellite Office
 31 Columbus Road
 Aundeck Omni Kaning

Items to bring:
 -Tobacco for offerings
 -Sweat clothing (Example: Ribbon Skirts for Kweek, tank tops/shorts/t-shirts/sandals/ and a towel).

To register, please contact:
 Jonn Naveau
 Firekeeper/Harvester
 jonn.naveau@nthc.ca
 Mobile: (705) 968-0072

Traditional Health Services are available to the Anishinabek population residing on & off-reserve in the District of Manitoulin, Espanola & area.

Noojmowin Teg Health Centre
 A place of healing

*Please note there is limited parking available.

For more information, visit nthc.ca or call (705) 968-0072

Fleet Coordinator - Gary Leclair



Tire in Espanola before moving into the powersports world at Trail Side Sports, where I became a licensed motorcycle technician while leading the service department. I also spent a short time back in the automotive industry before joining Whitefish River First Nation.

Outside of work, I'm happiest outdoors—whether it's motorcycling, ATVing, snowmobiling, or enjoying time at camp here on WRFN during the summer.

Hello Whitefish River First Nation! My name is Gary Leclair and I'm excited to have recently joined the team as your Fleet Coordinator. I started July 2, and it's both an honour and a privilege to be here serving this community.

I look forward to meeting community members, listening, learning, and doing my part to contribute to the ongoing success of the Whitefish River First Nation!

I can be reached at 705-285-4335 ext. 2239 or via email at garyl@whitefishriver.ca.

I've been working for over 40 years, starting with a decade at Canadian

Facilities Maintenance Technician - Curtis Pelletier



years, I've gained a lot of experience in building maintenance, and I'm committed to keeping our community's spaces safe, efficient, and well-maintained.

I've been living here with my partner Maddy and our three-year-old son for the past year and a half, and it feels great to be able to serve the community I call home. Whether it's handling urgent repairs or staying ahead with preventative maintenance, I'm here to make sure everything runs smoothly.

Hi everyone,

I'm Curtis Pelletier, and I'm excited to join the Whitefish River First Nation team as your new Facilities Maintenance Technician. Over the

If you ever need to reach me, feel free to contact me at curtisp@whitefishriver.ca. I'm really happy to be part of the team and look forward to working with all of you!



Terry Willemsvandyk

RSW/HBISW, RECE, RTEI, RBT

Child & Youth Mental Health & Addictions Counselling; Whitefish River First Nation Health Centre Free Mental Health Support

- access to services right away
- self referral age 13 -18
- Circle of Security Caregiver Support
- ongoing support
- single session support
- group support options
- infant through 17

Mental Health Services

For more information call our WRFN Health Centre at 705.285.4354 ext. 2309

Call or Text Terry at:
 705-863-3461
terryw@whitefishriver.ca

We all have our moments Remember these tips:



#1. Do no Harm
 #2. Remove yourself. Calm yourself
 #3. Repair and reconnect as soon as you are able

Tips and Quips Corner

Nimaaji-toomin Maamwi "We are on this Journey Together"




A royal adventure awaits the Daycare Graduates as they prepare for the next step to Shawanosowe School!



Asserting treaty rights.



Zhibii'gaaza. Be included in a treaty



Congratulations to Tracy Megwanabe on graduating from the Queen's University, Indigenous Teacher Education Program.



Generations of Land Protectors.



Geget sa naa nishin! Is that ever good.



Keewatino okimazinigan miishihehn. Northern Map turtle.



The 2025 Experiential Outdoor Leadership Training trip.



Gemma is cheered on at her graduation by her parents, Stephanie and Andy, and her sister, June.



Mapping out the journey.



Daycare graduate Magnolia is all smiles with mom Brooke.



The youth offer asemaa (tobacco) for the turtles.



Daycare graduate Laura & mom Christina.

Lands Director - Keith Nahwegahbow

Whitefish River First Nation Lands Department Hosts Open House

On July 24th, the Whitefish River First Nation Lands Department celebrated a major success with its community open house, drawing strong attendance and enthusiastic participation from community members and staff. Guests were welcomed with displays highlighting environmental initiatives, land-use planning, cultural site protection, and other projects.

Held at the new Lands Department office, the event aimed to showcase the department’s ongoing projects, future plans, and the critical role it plays in managing and protecting the community’s lands and resources.

Our goal was to open the doors and give everyone a chance to meet our new staff, tour our new office building, see what we do, why it matters, and how they can be involved. The turnout shows that our community is engaged and cares deeply about the stewardship of our territory.

Community members had the opportunity to tour the new Lands Office meet staff one-on-one, ask questions, and share feedback on land management priorities. Interactive maps, project boards, and a few fun trivia and guessing games drew particular interest, sparking discussions on sustainable development and the importance of preserving traditional territory.

For those that attended;

- **The picture was taken in 1973.**
- **There are 251 Turtle Eggs in the Incubator.**
- **The Bornite rock weighed 17.1 Pounds.**

The Lands Department will continue to host this Open House annually as well as Community Engagement sessions to keep members informed and involved in decision-making.

Coming up in September we will be celebrating our Land Stewardship Plan that was finalized with a community presentation. This will be used as a guide for future planning purposes and a guideline for development. With this we will kickoff our Land Use Plan where we will discuss specific areas in detail, including our Northern McCutcheon Road Area.

For more information, I can be reached at keithn@whitefishriver.ca or by phone at 705-285-4335 ext. 2220.



Mshiknaakoons. Baby turtle.

Community Notice

To: Whitefish River Community Members
From: WRFN Lands Department
Date: August 12, 2025
Subject: Tent and Trailer Park – Sandy Beach

This is a friendly reminder to Community members that there is no boat launching permitted at Sandy Beach. We recommend launching at local Marinas.

As a reminder, be respectful of Sandy Beach.

1. Swim at your own risk as there are no lifeguards.
2. NO Drugs or Alcohol.
3. NO camping permitted at 1st Sandy Beach.
4. NO littering.
5. Clean up after your pets.
6. Use designated fire pits and be cautious around open flames.

We thank you for your co-operation and ensuring the safety of all Community members.

Miigwetch,
 WRFN Lands Department

ATV TRAINING



Sign up for a 1 day course!

**Maximum:
8 Participants Per Day**

Required Gear:

- Long-sleeve shirt
- Pants
- Sturdy, over-the-ankle boots
- DOT-approved helmets,
- Eye protection
- Gloves

What you'll learn

- Safety Basics
- Tires and Wheels Inspection
- Control Systems & Cables
- Lights & Electrical Components
- Oil & Fuel Systems
- Chassis Overview

For WRFN Band Members 16+ only!

The week of September 15-19



To register contact Matt Gibson,
WRFN Lands Field Technician
landstech@whitefishriver.ca
705-863-0346

Participants must provide their own ATV.

Species At Risk Biologist - Reta Lingrui Meng

Mshiikenh Incubation Program

Aanii Boozhoo,
The Lands Department team has been very busy this summer stewarding our lands, water, and wildlife.

Our first year of the mshiikenh incubation program was a resounding success, during which we collected a total of 251 eggs from four different species (**Blanding's, Painted, Snapping, and Map turtles**) from at-risk areas around the community such as roadways, the old train tracks, lawns, etc., where the survival of nests is very low. We extracted the eggs very gently and placed them in a special vermiculite substrate to keep them moist and happy while they grew inside their eggs.

way out of its egg slowly, after which we give them a gentle bath and place them in a container with shallow water to rest. We hosted a ceremony for them on August 20, 2025 to send them out onto the land back home in a good way, and are so grateful for all the amazing community members who volunteered their time to come out and save turtle nests with us. *Our youngest volunteer was just 3 years old!*

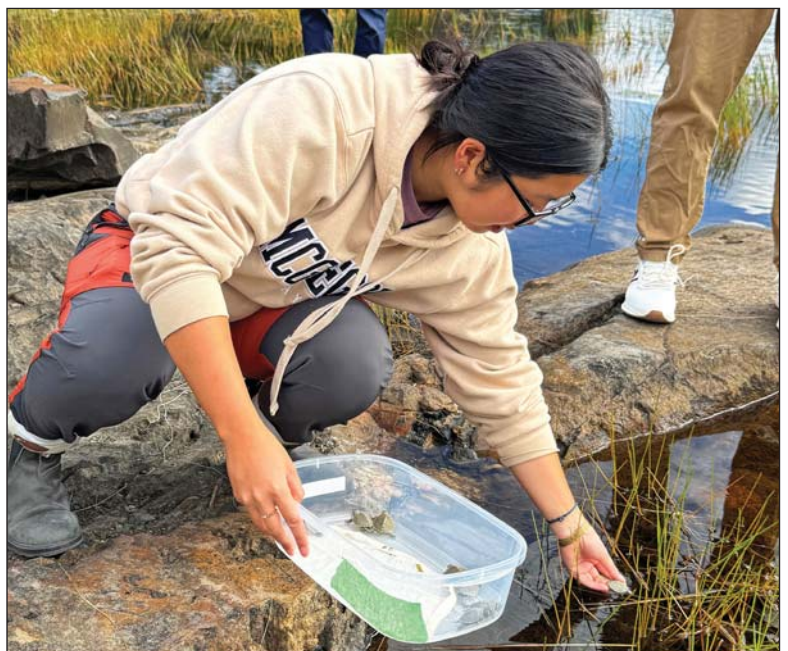
We have been engaging with the community to release the baby turtles together after the ceremony, where all WRFN community members were welcome to join. Chii miigwech, our work is not possible without all the amazing community support.

We incubated them carefully from June to August, maintaining a good temperature and humidity for them, and our babies are now hatching slowly! Each of them wiggles their

Whitefish River First Nation
Species At Risk Biologist,
Reta Lingrui Meng
Email: speciesatrisk@whitefishriver.ca



Welcoming the smallest WRFN residents at the Turtle Welcoming Ceremony on August 20, 2025.



Ganawendaagwad. It is taken care of, protected.



SEPTEMBER 2025 BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT



Twin Lakes Sampling Program

Purpose

Whitefish River Lands Office with support from Shared Value Solutions (SVS) is pleased to provide the following bulletin announcement to Whitefish River First Nation Community Members as notification for the upcoming Twin Lakes Sampling Program to be conducted in Twin Lakes near the railway bridge.

This program is part of the Railway Right-of-way investigations and will look at how higher levels of metal contaminants may impact the water and sediment of Twin Lakes, near the historical train derailment site.

Sampling Details

The Twin Lakes Sampling Program will consist of collecting water and sediment samples in Twin Lakes. Whitefish River Lands Office Staff, with support from SVS staff will collect water and sediment samples, take field measurements and photographs to support the program. Staff will be wearing high-visibility PPE and working along the shore of Twin Lakes.



Water Sample



Sediment Sample

SVS will be onsite on September 25th, 2025, to complete the water and sediment sampling.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Keith Nahwegahbow:



Keith Nahwegahbow
Lands Director

807-285-4335 ext. 2220
keithn@whitefishriver.ca
whitefishriver.ca

Project Engagement Coordinator - Michael Jacko

Aanii Ogiitchitaagek, Discussions are continuing with contractors, and we want to make ensure we collect all information on Whitefish River First Nation businesses, both on and off reserve, to create connections for upcoming project opportunities. At the same time, we are building a list of workers for contractors who are looking to hire, so whether you own a business or are seeking employment, please send us your information.

In addition, we are collecting artwork from WRFN members to showcase when companies and contractors visit our community. This is a great way to display your talent and generate potential sales opportunities. We welcome beadwork, paintings, sculptures, crafts, or any other handmade art you'd like to share.

The team is always considering the best ways to collect feedback and deliver results to the WRFN community. We would like to know the ideal method to distribute information

about upcoming events as well how community members would prefer to receive updates from Hydro One or Waasmoowin. These items are extremely important to ensure your contributions are accurately collected and documented. You have a say in how these projects are shaped within our territory and you have the right to provide comments, concerns or questions. My duty is to ensure your items are addressed and answered in a timely manner.

If you would like more information or wish to participate in any of these initiatives, please reach out. We look forward to keeping our community informed, involved, and connected.

Miigwetch,
mjacko@whitefishriver.ca
Phone: (705)285-4335 ext. 2230
Cell: (705) 863-0792
"Gabawaajiganang Binoongom"
"Future visions, Here today"



Lands Executive Assistant, Keisha McGregor gives the new hatchlings a gentle bath



WRFN Lands Field Technician Matt Gibson places the hatchlings in a container with shallow water for some "R&R".



Gii-paashkaawe'owag igi mishiikenyag. Those turtles hatched.

WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION BUSINESSES

meet REET

SEPT 13TH 2025 10AM-4 PM

With **VALARD CONSTRUCTION**

7 Fires Youth and Elders Center
46 B Bay of Island Rd.
Whitefish River First Nation

DISCUSSIONS ABOUT:

- Subcontract
- Contracts
- Services

Reserve your time slot
Contact:

Michael Jacko
Project Engagement Coordinator
705-285-4335 Ext. 2230
mjacko@whitefishriver.ca



The whole community was excited to welcome the baby turtles.



Indinawemaaganidog - All my relations.

Consultation Coordinator - Stephen McGregor

Ahnii

A Quick Update on the Past Four Months

• Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area (ALTMA)

For those unfamiliar with this topic, here’s a short history: In 2015, the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM) was tasked with bringing ALTMA up to standards set by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. During the assessment process, MNDM proposed transferring Naturally Occurring Radioactive Waste (NORM) from Nipissing First Nation to the ALTMA site. Fast forward to the summer of 2024—residents of Nairn discovered major infrastructure built around ALTMA and began a public campaign to stop the dumping of NORM. Whitefish River First Nation, along with the United Chiefs and Councils of Mni-doo Mnising (UCCMM) and surrounding municipalities, joined efforts to oppose this plan. The Ministry of Mines have since decided to send the NORM from Nipissing to a different disposal site.

• Mining Task Force – Chiefs of Ontario

A Mining Task Force has been established by the Chiefs of Ontario to address concerns over the continuing rise in mining activity. This increase is linked to the Mining Lands Administration System (MLAS), which allows prospectors to stake mining claims online from anywhere in the world, as well as recent changes under the Building More Mines Act.

Why This Matters for WRFN?

On June 5, 2025, Bill 5 (Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025) received Royal Assent. This legislation brings major changes to the Mining Act, Ontario Heritage Act, Environmental Assessment Act, Ontario Energy Board Act, Environmental Protection Act, Endangered Species Act, and the Rebuilding Ontario Act. First Nations are concerned because these changes follow a trend of weakening environmental protections - something that ultimately impacts our inherent and treaty rights.

• Traditional Knowledge Land Use Study

WRFN Lands has completed a Traditional Knowledge Land Use Study with the support of Shared Value Solutions. This work is vital, as it captures our community’s values and relationships to the land, much of which lives with our Knowledge Keepers. Preserving this knowledge is a responsibility we carry for future generations. Miigwetch to leadership, past and present, for supporting this important project.

• Looking Ahead – Consultation Protocol Engagement

WRFN Lands will be hosting a community engagement session to gather input on Consultation Protocol. This has been a long-term goal, and it is exciting to see it moving forward.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at the Lands Department or by email at stephenm@whitefishriver.ca. Miigwetch.

Mineral Development Advisor - Perry Campbell



Whitefish River First Nation in managing the growing number of mining exploration permit applications. It was also an opportunity to help us pursue joint ventures and partnerships with other First Nations that have more experience in the mining sector. It is my fundamental goal to use the knowledge and expertise I have gained from my years in mining to help leadership understand the mining process, terminology, potential impacts and benefits of mining will have on the lands and the community when entering discussions with mining exploration and mining companies.

Another goal is to seek training and employment opportunities in the mining sector for community members.

Yet another is to function as a liaison between the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM), while at the same time working at improving the relationship between the Ministry and WRFN. This plan has already been set in motion by meeting with the MEM team to discuss the mining exploration process. Part of my role will be to ensure that environmental monitoring is conducted and that WRFN’s interests are fully protected.

I am pleased to share that WRFN is a great place to work, and I look forward to meeting community members in the near future.

Thank you,
Perry Campbell
WRFN Mineral Development Advisor
perryrc@whitefishriver.ca
705-285-4335 ext. 2240

My name is Perry Campbell, and I came on board with the Whitefish River First Nation (WRFN) Lands Department on June 24th as the Mineral Development Advisor (MDA). Having grown up on Gravelle Rd in Whitefish Falls, I went to school and hung out with many friends from Birch Island and eventually married a member of the Whitefish River community.

I graduated from the Geological Technology program in 1984. Upon graduation I worked in exploration briefly. I then worked in diamond drilling for a year before moving to Japan to study the martial arts. Upon returning to Canada, I worked for INCO (now Vale) until retiring in 2020. After retiring I took on three separate contracts over the next five years with DMC, a smaller mining contracting company, before retiring again for what I thought would be the last time. When the Mineral Development Advisor position became available, I saw it as a chance to support

Message from the Chief - Ogimaa Rodney Nahwegahbow



Ahnii-Boozhoo!

Rodney Nahwegahbow n'dizhnikaaaz, Mhiingan n'doodem, minwaa Gmiwin 'nini' n'diznikaaaz, g'chi-miigwech kina wiiya.

- **Economic Development and Community Priorities**

WRFN continues to advance through the Economic Development Readiness Study with Shared Values Solutions. With developments in mining, transmission line projects, and local commercial opportunities, our priority remains making well-informed decisions for the benefit of present and future generations of Whitefish River First Nation.

- **Waasmoowin Energy Partnership**

Since early 2024, WRFN has been actively involved in the Waasmoowin Energy Partnership North Shore Line Limited Partnership. Together with our partnering First Nations, we have worked with Hydro One Networks Inc. to shape project routing, support environmental assessments, and guide archaeological work along the North Shore Link and Northeast Powerline Project corridors. I encourage you to participate in the survey with Michael Jacko, Projects Engagement Coordinator. This provides the opportunity to share your concerns and ideas surrounding the projects and environmental stewardship.

- **Boundary Claim Negotiations**

WRFN continues their discussions with Ontario regarding our outstanding boundary claim as part of our shared commitment to reconciliation. Leadership will be meeting with the Deputy Minister of Indigenous Affairs and the Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks on September 10, 2025, to move these important discussions forward.

- **Protecting Endangered Species**

I am proud of the protections recently put in place for endangered species within our territory. Volunteers and our Land Department staff played a vital role in collecting and safeguarding turtle eggs to ensure their safe hatching. I look forward to celebrating their release back into their natural habitat within our community homeland.

- **Anti-Drug Billboard Project**

The Anti-Drug Campaign billboards are nearing completion across all Island First Nations with the support of service partners. This initiative will re-

mind the public that First Nations and police are working together to address crime and drug trafficking through prevention. The signage will also highlight the use of new technology such as CCTV. Whitefish River led this important project, and an official unveiling date will be announced soon.

- **RHT Treaty Gathering**

The annual RHT Gathering is taking place in Baawating (Sault Ste. Marie) on September 7-9, 2025. This year marks the 175th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of 1850. This annual event boasts over 1,000 participants, on-site vendors, interactive workshops, and engaging keynote speakers. The Chief and Council, along with community eagle staff 'Bwaajigatik', will represent WRFN at this year's gathering.

- **RHT Settlement**

The official vote is scheduled for September 13, 2025.

You can vote in-person, through mail in ballot, or online. As always, information regarding the RHT Settlement is available on our membership portal. Thank you for your continued patience as we finalize this process.

- **BMI Group Opening Ceremony**

BMI Group will be hosting an opening ceremony and land acknowledgment for the BioVeld North Mill Site (formerly Domtar) on September 24, 2025. This will provide the leadership of local First Nations and municipalities with the opportunity to meet the BMI Group CEO and investors, as well as a tour of the site.

- **Truth and Reconciliation**

WRFN remains committed to holding governments accountable to the 94 Calls to Action identified by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2015.

On Tuesday, September 30, we will observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, honouring the children who never returned home, survivors of residential schools, and their families and communities. Please follow WRFN media platforms for details on how we will recognize this important day.

- **Niobium Rock Tailings Update**

There is positive news regarding the relocation of niobium rock tailings that

were initially planned for the Agnew Lake (Nairn) Tailings Management Area. Whitefish River and neighbouring First Nations strongly opposed placing these materials in our Traditional Territory. The government has now confirmed the deposits will be moved to an approved site in southern Ontario, with monitoring and repair work at Agnew Lake scheduled for late 2026 or early 2027.

- **Back to School**

I extend my best wishes to all Whitefish River students returning to school this fall. To our post-secondary students, know that your community stands behind you and supports you in your studies. Please reach out to family and community resources whenever you need support.

I can be reached at chief@whitefishriver.ca or through Administration at 705-285-4335 ext. 2202. Miigwech!

Ogimaa Rodney Nahwegahbow



WRFN Youth participated in a 3-day UCCMM U-Turn Community Program on August 11, 12, & 13, 2025.



NOTICE OF VOTE

JULY 30, 2025

TO ALL MEMBERS OF WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION

A vote will be held on September 13, 2025, to ratify the Whitefish River First Nation RHT top-up and to amend the Custodial Trust to allow for the RHT top-up to be paid to Qualifying Recipients (as defined in the Custodial Trust). The two ballot questions to be voted on are:

QUESTION 1:

Are you in favour of Chief & Council amending the Custodial Trust Agreement to authorize an RHT top-up payment to the original PCD for Qualifying Recipients, using funds from the RHT settlement?

QUESTION 2:

Which of the five options for the amount of the RHT top-up payment to Qualifying Recipients are you in favour of? Please mark one.

1. A base amount of \$5,000 combined with an age factor of \$1,100.00;
2. A base amount of \$10,000 combined with an age factor of \$850.00;
3. A base amount of \$15,000 combined with an age factor of \$550.00;
4. An equal distribution \$50,000.00; or
5. None of the above.

Please note that the above amounts may be subject to change based on prevailing economic conditions. Chief & Council commits to adhere to the extent possible to the above options.

Voting on the First Nation will take place on Saturday, September 13, 2025, between the hours of 8:00 am and 6:00 pm at the Whitefish River First Nation Community Centre

6 Rainbow Valley Road

You are eligible to vote if you are 18 years of age as of September 13, 2025, and your name appears on the Whitefish River voter's list. The voter's list will be posted at the administration office, the community centre, post office, and on the Whitefish River First Nation website in the membership portal.

You will be required to produce identification to vote. You may only vote once. You may vote in person or by mail-in ballot. To be eligible to be counted, a mail-in ballot must be received by the First Nation Ratification Officer identified on the envelope by the close of the voting period.

If you have not received a voter's package, you may request a mail-in ballot by contacting the Whitefish River First Nation Ratification Officer by telephone or email at the contact information listed below.

You may also vote by electronic vote from September 1 to September 13, 2025, at 6:00 pm. Please visit <https://onefeather.ca/nations/whitefishriver> to cast an electronic ballot.

All votes will be counted at the address on page after the close of polls on September 13, 2025.

This notice is given this **30th** day of **July, 2025**, by **Kathleen Migwanabi**, First Nation Ratification Officer, for Whitefish River First Nation.

17-A Rainbow Ridge Road, PO Box 178, Birch Island, ON P0P 1A0

Phone Number: 705-285-4335 ext. 2208 Cell Number: 705-863-3599 Fax Number: 705-285-4532

E-mail Address: kathleenm@whitefishriver.ca

Pet Care & Tips



I hope your summer is going just the way you expected. I've noticed that the days are starting to get shorter again. The sun is gradually shifting back toward the Water Tower, where it usually sets in the winter.

Luka and She-Pet Elizabeth are doing well, as always. They enjoy spending their evenings out on the front deck. Around midnight, they usually come inside for a while before heading back out again until daylight.

I've also been feeding Charley, my pet raven, and his family on the deck. I usually give them leftovers or peanuts in the evenings, along with the other birds that stop by.

Some Cat Facts:

- A cat's jaw can't move sideways, which means it can't gnaw on pieces of food that are too large.
- Some palms given to parishioners on Palm Sunday—such as the common Sago Palm—are toxic to cats.
- In 2006, Fred the Undercover Kitty became famous for assisting the NYPD and the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office.

That's it for another month! The cats and I would like to wish a Happy Birthday or Happy Anniversary to everyone celebrating this month. Don't forget to visit or check in on members of our senior community—they'll surely appreciate the kindness. And please remember to get your pets fixed to help manage the local pet population.

Take care—from Luka, She-Pet Elizabeth, and me,

Dennis L. McGregor

Brought to you by the Ontario SPCA & Humane Society and the UCCMM By-law Enforcement Program

UCCMM Spay & Neuter Clinic 2025

4-Directions Complex

September 25-28 2025

Open to the communities of Aundeck Omni Kaning, Whitefish River, Sheshegwaning, Sheguiandah, & Zhiibaahaasing First Nation






To register

call Zachary Corbiere, By-law Enforcement Officer @ (705)-377-3009 or email bylaw@uccmm.ca

WRFN Golfers Shine at Indigenous Ontario Championship, Earn Spots in National Challenge!



Sophie Malenfant and Barry Pitawanakwat and represented Whitefish River First Nation in the **2025 Indigenous Ontario Golf Championship**. The event was held at Mont Hill Golf and Country club in Caledonia, in partnership with Golf Ontario. There were 118+ Indigenous golfers, both men and women representing nations from all over Ontario. The tournament consisted of 2 qualifying rounds with a cut after the second day. Sophie and Barry played well enough to qualify for the third day of the championship. Both players battling extreme heat,

heavy rain on a challenging course.

Barry finished strong in a tough field placing 3rd in the net Stableford scoring division. Sophie also had a good showing on the final day, finishing 3rd overall in the women's division as well as 3rd in net Stableford scoring division. Both golfers have been asked to represent Ontario in a showdown with golfers representing British Columbia for the Indigenous Challenge Match. This year, the event will take place at Taboo resort in Muskoka from September 21-23.

The Birch Island Group of Alcoholics Anonymous



"The only requirement is a desire to stop drinking"



Sundays at 2pm
St. Gabriel Lalement Church
Birch Island

Nathalie Fert

Wholistic Healer
Reiki, Alternative Therapy (help with trauma) & Relaxation Message

September 5th, 2025 WRFN Health Centre
September 26th, 2025 9am - 4pm



Nathalie will provide one-on-one sessions. She is a wholistic healer who has graduated in Reiki (Practitioner & Master, Member of the Reiki Healing Association RHA), is a Healing Wicca (Practitioner & Master), practices Holistic Herbalism (Member of the International Therapist Association IOTHA), and can aid with Crystal Healing, Aromatherapy, Alternative Medicine and Holistic Therapies. Appointments Fill Fast

To book your session contact: Crystal Mokohonuk 705-285-4354 Ext 2308 mentalhealth@whitefishriver.ca