



EDITION 1
12.14.2021
Newsletter

DIBAAJIMOWIN PROJECT



ABOUT THE PROJECT

The goal of the Dibaajimowin Project is to connect participating Treaty #3 communities with high-speed fibre-fed internet in their homes and community buildings, improving access to digital health care, economic opportunities, business operations, distance education and staying in touch with friends and family. The project will also connect community infrastructure such as water treatment plants that require virtual monitoring and provide dedicated circuits for health centres and schools where needed. The Dibaajimowin project is a multi year project that is expected to be completed by 2025.

"CONNECTING TREATY #3
COMMUNITIES THROUGH
HIGH SPEED INTERNET."



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Under a mandate given by Treaty #3 Chiefs Resolution a funding application was made in January 2021 for a connectivity project that would bring fibre optics and high speed internet connections into any Treaty #3 First Nation that wanted it. Grand Council Treaty #3 Health Unit took the lead for the application and 21 communities supported it. Conditional approval was received on July 28, 2021. Conditions of funding are being addressed so that agreements can be signed and work can begin and following that milestone, it will take 3-4 years to complete the fibre connections in project communities.

The Advisory Committee for the project is the Treaty #3 Social & Economic Chiefs Committees, support and guidance from Jennifer McKibbon (Project Lead), Gary Allen (T3IG CEO) and Lucas King (TPU Director). Meetings are held to provide project updates and give direction to the project team. All Chiefs and Ogichidaa are updated at Chiefs meetings throughout the year.

On Sept 21, 2021 asemaa and gifts were offered to Elder Steven Kejick in his Roundhouse at Iskatewizaagegan First Nation and the name Dibaajimowin was given to the project. An Elders Advisory group will guide the ceremony needed to ensure Dibaajimowin proceeds in a good way and provide wisdom and guidance throughout the multi-year project.

An engagement process under Manito Aki Inakonigaawin is underway so that communities can be as involved as they want to be in planning how the fibre optic connection will be built in their community. All of the detailed engineering, planning and location of new lines await this input from the project communities and the Nation.

Dibaajimowin is administered by GCT3 on behalf of project communities and Bell Canada is the Project Partner. Bell was the only telecommunications company with the capacity for this very large infrastructure build and has built most of the existing fibre backbone in the territory.

The Project Lead for Dibaajimowin is GCT3 staff Jennifer McKibbon, located in the Kenora office. She works with a GCT3 staff team, consultants, government funders, the Project Partner and connects the Chiefs, Elders and communities to move the project forward and ensure the goals of Dibaajimowin are met.

CONTACT US

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