SPRING NEWSLETTER 2020

Protecting the future of our people by ensuring the protection, preservation, and enhancement of Inherent and Treaty rights.

POLITICAL
ADMINISTRATION
HEALTH
EDUCATION
ECONOMIC - T3IG
TERRITORIAL PLANNING UNIT
INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS
KAAKEWAASEYA JUSTICE SERVICES
TREATY & ABORIGINAL RIGHTS RESEARCH

GCT#3 COMMITTEES

TREATY #3 CHIEFS COMMITTEE

SOCIAL

Chief Rudy Turtle, Asubpeeschoseewagong (Chair)
Chief Doug Riffel, Wabauskang (Co-Chair)
Chief Michael Ottertail, Lac La Croix
Chief Brian Perrault, Couchiching
Chief Wesley Big George, Naongashiing
Chief Howard Kabestra, Naotkamegwanning
Chief Jim Major, Animakee Wa Zhing

ENVIRONMENTAL

Chief Will Windigo, Nigigoonsiminikaaning (Chair)
Chief Arnold Gardner, Migisi Sahgaigan (Co-Chair)
Chief Vernon Redsky, Shoal Lake #40
Chief Rob McGinnis, Rainy River
Chief Gerald Lewis, Iskatewizaagegan #39
Chief Waylon Scott, Wabaseemoong
Chief Lorraine Cobiness, Niisaachewan

CULTURAL

Chief Lynn Indian, Mishkosiminiziibiing (Chair)
Chief Candi Kelly, Onigaming (Co-Chair)
Chief Chris Skead, Wauzhushk Onigum
Chief Carrie Boshkaykin, Seine River
Chief Derek Maud, Lac Seul
Chief Andrea Camp, Buffalo Point
Chief Edward Machimity, Saugeen

ECONOMIC

Chief Derrick Henderson, Sagkeeng (Chair)
Chief Darlene Comegan, Northwest Angle #33 (Co-Chair)
Chief Marilyn Sinclair, Washigamis Bay
Chief Esther Pitchenese, Waabigoniiw Saaga'iganiiw
Chief Judy Whitecloud, Lac des Mille Lacs
Chief Wayne Smith, Naicatchewenin
Chief Janice Henderson, Mitaanjigamiing

Other Chiefs Committees can be formed to address specific advocacy needs and priorities.

OBISHKINIIGIIG YOUTH COUNCIL

Liam George, Naongashiing
Winter Lipscombe, Wauzhushk Onigum
Kayla Morrison, Onigaming
Ernie Cobiness Jr., Buffalo Point

WOMEN'S COUNCIL

Anita Collins, Seine River
Catherine Green, Shoal Lake #40
Mona Gordon, Lac Seul
Priscilla Simard, Couchiching

MEN'S COUNCIL

Andrew Johnson, Seine River
Daryl Redsky, Shoal Lake #40
Nathaniel Councillor, Naicatchewenin
Bill Petiquan, Wabauskang

TREATY #3 ANISHINAABE NATION

Memorial Page

Grand Council Treaty#3 acknowledges that the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty#3 has experienced significant losses over the last few months and we want to provide tribute and honor our elders who have journeyed on to the spirit world. They have shared their gifts through ceremony, teachings and mentored us all on how to live a good life.

RICHARD JAMES MORRISON | JUNE 24, 1960 – MAY 26, 2020 | NIGIGOONSIMINIKAANING

CATHERINE KELLY "GUTTO" | JANUARY 6, 1932 – MAY 26, 2020 | EAGLE LAKE

SHIRLEY SINCLAIR | JANUARY 28, 1976 - MAY 24, 2020 | WASHAGAMIS BAY

KYLE GARDNER | SEPTEMBER 25, 1990 – MAY 18, 2020 | EAGLE LAKE

TYREASE EDWARD PAYASH | MARCH 17, 2002 – MAY 6, 2020 | GRASSY NARROWS

ELIZABETH TOM | APRIL 15, 1940 - MAY 2, 2020 | NAOTKAMEGWANNING

TINA MARIE WEHRENBERG | JANUARY 18, 1975 - APRIL 28, 2020 | RAINY RIVER

DARLENE DOLLY BOB | NOVEMBER 16, 1948 - APRIL 27, 2020 | ONIGAMING

DOUGLAS HARVEY MORRISSEAU | DECEMBER 11, 1961 - APRIL 20, 2020 | COUCHICHING

SHANE AUSTEN KELLY | APRIL 16, 2020 | ONIGAMING

ROSIE BROWN | NOVEMBER 18, 1950 - APRIL 12, 2020 | WABIGOON

CALVIN THEODORE BOMBAY | APRIL 11, 2020 | RAINY RIVER

DEANNA HYACINTHE | JUNE 12, 1956 - MARCH 7, 2020 | ISKATEWIZAAGEGAN 39

JULIETTE BLACKHAWK | MAY 14, 1951 – FEBRUARY 28, 2020 | LAC SEUL

GENEVIEVE MCGINNIS | JAN. 30, 2020 | RAINY RIVER

We apologize in advance if we have accidentally left someone's name off the memorial page.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

POLITICAL OFFICE

POLITICAL OFFICE UPDATE
OFFICE OF THE OGICHIDAA

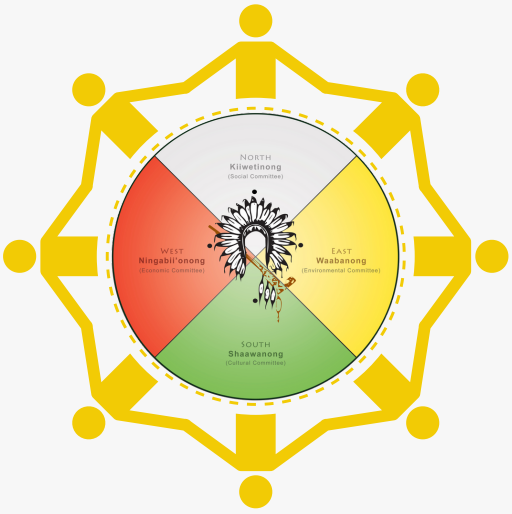
The Spring of 2020 has seen dramatic changes for the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty 3 and for the Office of the Ogichidaa. The beginnings of the COVID-19 pandemic brought disruptions to many initiatives such as nation-building bilaterals with the Province of Ontario as all in-person meetings were cancelled.

Despite the initial chaos of pandemic, the leadership and service providers of Treaty 3 successfully banded together and managed the initial response efforts. Through effective information distribution via the website, social media, and weekly leadership calls along with the cooperation of federal and provincial governments, the COVID-19 response has been orderly and productive.

There was a tremendous change to our way of life brought about by trying to “flatten the curve,” and the efforts of all the people of the Treaty 3 territory to care for one another while maintaining social distancing contributed to our communities being protected from the pandemic. To assist our people in our traditional way, we carried out our traditional responsibilities: we have held spring feasting ceremonies at our offices and the commemoration feasting of the 1873 signing of Treaty 3, and due to the postponement of our Spring Assembly this year, we conducted an appeasement ceremony to acknowledge this passage in time.

One of the primary hurdles of the initial stages of the pandemic has been the numerous communications issues. Due to the global nature of the work-from-home revolution, the internet speeds and telephone lines in the Treaty 3 territory were overstretched. For several weeks there existed severe communication shortfalls as the existing telecommunication infrastructure failed to meet demand and upgrade and mitigation efforts proved difficult due to global demand for telecommunication equipment.

PROTECTING THE FUTURE OF OUR PEOPLE BY ENSURING THE PROTECTION, PRESERVATION, AND ENHANCEMENT OF INHERENT AND TREATY RIGHTS.



CONTINUED...

However, this has also proven to be an opportunity in that it highlighted the urgent need for broadband connectivity expansion – an issue already being worked on at Grand Council Treaty 3. This pandemic has vividly demonstrated the need to advance and accelerate these efforts and placed it at the forefront of future government planning. In addition, the shift towards teleconferencing has dramatically changed the way leadership interact. Weekly calls and conferences between leadership and with service providers exist, meaning communication as a whole has reached new levels.

The Political Office has also seen many issues arise that are commonly held by the communities of Treaty 3. The issue of band bylaws, jurisdiction, and law enforcement has risen to new levels of urgency. The added stresses associated with the pandemic have also taken a social toll on our communities with rates of domestic violence, child welfare interventions, and disturbances of the peace all on the rise.

Going forward, adapting to a changed reality will be a major priority for First Nations leadership both in Treaty 3 and across the country. Many issues have been forced to the sidelines due to the pandemic and in each case new ways of moving projects and initiatives forward while adhering to pandemic guidelines are required. The pandemic will also undoubtedly cause a general re-evaluation of the role of the federal and provincial governments and their relationships with First Nations. The pandemic has highlighted many instances where our communities significantly lag behind the rest of society but at the same time the response of most communities has demonstrated an unanticipated level of capacity and innovation.

COVID-19 has demonstrated a new level of capability for First Nations to chart their own paths forward despite major societal disruptions and as a result reinforced the need to continue nation rebuilding discussions that were underway before the pandemic struck. As the summer of 2020 begins, the Office of the Ogichidaa will continue to engage with community leadership to develop and establish new ways of doing business to advance and advocate for the inherent and treaty rights of the citizens of the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty 3.

OGICHIDAA FRANCIS KAVANAUGH

In the spirit of partnership and community safety, T3PS Chief Kai Liu shared some Personal Protective Equipment with Ogichidaa Francis Kavanaugh to keep our communities safe and healthy!

Face Shields delivered by Grand Council Treaty #3

Video Information on COVID-19 in Anishinabemowin by Ogichidaa Francis Kavanaugh (GCT3 Youtube Channel)

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

GICHI OZHIBI'IGE OGAAMIC
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

OFFICE OPERATIONS

At the present time, Grand Council Treaty#3 staff are working remotely from home. Essential staff do come into the offices as needed to provide specific supports in the area of: Justice, Finance, Health, and Indian Residential School. Grand Council Treaty#3 has 70 staff located in offices in Kenora, Fort Frances, and Dryden. There are office locations in the communities of Lac Seul, Naotkamegwanning, Asubpeeschoweewagong (Grassy Narrows) and Wabaseemoong.

FINANCE OFFICE

As an essential part of the organization, our Finance office has maintained operations as it has been difficult to work remotely every day. We have adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic guidelines. We initiated EFT (Electronic Fund Transfer) to support our leadership, staff and vendors who would normally received our payments via regular mail. This process has improved the time to process our lengthy cheque processing. Finance office consists of three staff and are at the former CJ property. Since the announcement of the physical closure of our office, we used this quiet time to assist us in getting our books ready for audit and hopefully we will have it done before the deadline of July 31, 2020. We are preparing and sending the funding confirmation letters to our communities and regional organizations this week so this should be able to save your auditors time in preparing for your 2019-20 audit. If you need to speak to us, please feel free to contact us via phone at 807-788-1406 or via email at accounting@treaty3.ca.

TREATY #3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

The Treaty #3 Executive Director's have a teleconference call every Wednesday at 10:00 am and this meeting provides an important opportunity to exchange information and share ideas. All of the Treaty #3 organizations provide written updates that are shared with the Treaty #3 Leadership. The Treaty #3 Leadership have a scheduled teleconference call every Thursday.

MANAGERS MEETINGS

Biweekly meetings are held with Managers to provide an opportunity to share information and plan across the sectors. Managers are able to provide feedback from their respective staff and assist in the prioritization of issues. April and May have been busy with closing out the fiscal year and the completion of final reports and planning for the 2020-21 year.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Grand Council Treaty #3 Board of Directors have a teleconference call every couple weeks to go over office operations.

Chief Judy Whitecloud, Lac des Mille Lacs
Chief Howard Kabestra, Naotkamegwanning
Chief Waylon Scott, Wabaseemoong
Chief Janice Henderson, Mitaanjigamiing

RECENT ACTIVITIES

PREPARING TO REOPEN

To ensure the safety of our staff and visitors, Grand Council Treaty #3 has put into place:

- Staff screening: every morning before staff enter the building, they will provide their temperature. Any temperature that reads 38˚C or higher, the staff member will be asked to work from home
- Questionnaire screening: any staff that has traveled outside Ontario will be required to work from home and self-isolate for 14 days
- A maximum of 5 staff members inside the administration office and 1 staff member per satellite office

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR ALL STAFF

Staff of Grand Council Treaty #3 will be equipped with:

- Gloves
- Masks
- Hand sanitizer
- Cleaning supplies
- Lysol wipes or disinfectant spray
- Installation of protective barriers in and around the office
- A sneeze guard will be installed at the front desk reception
- Cordless door bell at the front door for visitors to announce their arrival
- Windows will be opened to ensure there is proper ventilation

DELIVERY OF PPE

Grand Council Treaty #3 distributed 6000 litres of hand sanitizer to Treaty#3 First Nations communities; as well as 500 face shields and some gloves. We were provided a donation from Global Medic which allowed for the distribution of personal care and cleaning kits to community checkpoints.

TRUE NORTH AID DONATION

At the end of March, True North Aid shipped a donation of furniture for Grand Council Treaty#3 which consisted of double sized mattresses, bed frames, night tables, lounge chairs and dressers. The furniture is currently being stored in Kenora at the OPP station until it can be safely delivered to families in communities.

GICHI OZHIBI'IGE OGAAMIC
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

GRAND COUNCIL TREATY #3
The GOVERNMENT OF THE ANISHINAABE NATION in Treaty #3

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

HEALTH

HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATE

COVID-19

Since mid –March the Health unit has been focused on COVID -19. Our initial focus was to ensure that we educated the communities about the virus – literature was reviewed and together with Marketing, the GCT3 COVID webpage was developed. GCT3 will continue to monitor the communique and update the site throughout this time.

While working remotely the Health Staff been participating on daily, weekly calls with our various federal and provincial partners. These calls have allowed Grand Council Treaty #3 technicians to receive up to date information about the virus; but more importantly dialogue about risks; symptoms; testing; and response to first nation communities.
Advocacy has been key during this time to ensure communities receive the necessary supports to prepare and respond to this virus.

Early on, we reached out to the Health Directors to offer our support and identify contacts and key issues in preparation and planning for COVID-19.
More recently, we began hosting weekly calls with the Health Directors; providing updates offering support and providing a space for dialogue and discussion. We will continue to host weekly calls with Health Directors during the pandemic and plan how we will work together post pandemic.

Curriculum Development in Winnipeg, MB - March 2020

GRAND COUNCIL TREATY #3
HEALTH COUNCIL

We also had our community lead reach out to communities early on to identify issues and offer support and more recently we sent out communique about new treatment options for opioids and work on the strategy that will begin to move forward post pandemic.
Treaty #3 communities have done an excellent job to protect the people from this virus. Our quarantines and check- points have been successful in keeping the virus out and protecting our most vulnerable our elders.
Although the province has begun to open up, we are still in a pandemic and need to remain vigilant – we need to keep our plans ready and be prepared for a possible outbreak although you may hear the province announcing that we are beginning to flatten the curve we know there will be a second wave.

GCT3 Health unit will continue to be available to provide support to communities throughout the pandemic, and post pandemic. The files are now being addressed with a “COVID 19 lens” and a focus on how to provide the best advocacy and support to Treaty#3 leadership and communities

BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY

In the new fiscal year, the GCT3 health unit, in partnership with Gary Allen, CEO of Treaty #3 Investment Group embarked on a Connectivity Project to achieve high speed internet in all of the Treaty #3 communities with sufficient bandwidth to support telemedicine, digital health, distance education, economic development, emergency management and other areas that can be delivered on a virtual platform.

Letters have been sent to government Ministers to remind them of the significant challenges the substandard internet service creates for Treaty #3 communities and to request their attention and support to our funding requests. Some Treaty #3 communities are working individually to achieve upgrades to their community broadband and this GCT3 Connectivity Project does not compete with those efforts. The processes can go forward in parallel and should build on each other.

Chiefs are kept informed about this project by emails, phone calls and reports via Gary Allen at the weekly Chiefs teleconferences.

TREATY #3 HEALTH EXPERTS PANEL (H.E.A.P)

- Dr. Alex Petiquan
- Dr. Rene Linklater
- Dr. Jesse Leahy
- Dr. Amy Bombay
- Dr. Shannon Wesley
- Seneca Longclaws, B.A. LL.B.
- Turina Bruyere, NOSM student (4th year)
- Langford Ogemah, Elder, Wauzhushk Onigum

Due to the Pandemic, they are not currently meeting.

Youth Gathering in Dryden, ON - March 2020

HEALTH UPDATES

- Mental Health Funding for First Nations school will be supporting 12 schools this 2020-2021 fiscal year. Mental Health Funding formula has also changed and is now based on student population.

- 2020 Community Garden received 20 applications from the surrounding Treaty #3 communities and have been approved. Cheques will be mailed out early next week to the respected communities that applied for the $500 grant.

- 23 communities have received financial support from GCT#3 during COVID-19 from Youth Culture Camp, to support youth/children during this difficult time.

Treaty #3 Men's Council Strategic Plan - March 2020

JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE

For some of the Jordan's Principle families we are finding it a struggle for them access funding to meet their needs as the application numbers has risen throughout the province.
In the treaty #3 territory, some cases have unfortunately been denied which results in appeals in which are a lengthy process. Our office continues to monitor these types of cases to try an ensure families that Jordan's Principle is an initiative that is there to assist them and will work diligently towards getting them the assistance they need.
During this pandemic we have also continued the Jordan's Principle Technical working group of Ontario to keep up with updates, and any shared information.

Sunday May 10, 2020 was Jordan's Principle Bear Witness Day

Grand Council Treaty #3's Billy Bear celebrated sitting window side during COVID 19

Women's Gathering in Dryden, ON - March 2020

Treaty #3 Youth Executive Council have been working on a Toolkit for Bill C-92

INDIGENOUS SYSTEMS COORDINATOR

More recently, Grand Council Treaty #3 Health Staff engaged in discussion with the University of Manitoba Midwifery Program to start a collaborative process in bringing midwifery training to the Grand Council Treaty #3 territory. The University program will have 6 students enter the program each year, beginning in September 2021, with half of the seats being designated for Indigenous students. Students will spend 80 percent of their time in clinical settings and will be required to have supported 60 births, 40 of them as the primary midwife, in order to graduate and become registered to practise.

The curriculum is being developed in consultation with organizations such as the Norway House Cree Nation Health Centre of Excellence and the National Aboriginal Council of Midwives.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

EDUCATION

TREATY#3 EDUCATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND SCHOOL CLOSURES

In March 2020, the Ontario government announced the closures of all provincial schools following the spring break due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. E-learning and distance education was implemented in elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools. This situation has highlighted the importance of protocols for similar scenarios in the future.

On May 22 the announcement was made that all schools will remain closed until September 2020 however learning, summer learning and credit recovery options are available. The community volunteer credits will be waived for graduates. Students expected to graduate will not be negatively impacted.

Education staff will continue to work remotely for the remainder of the school year, with some provincial schools providing adaptive programming over the summer to meet student's needs. Grand Council Treaty 3's education unit continues to work closely with Treaty 3 First Nations, local school boards, Indigenous Services Canada, the Ministry of Education and other organizations to support schools and students during this unprecedented time.

GRADUATIONS

Secondary schools and post-secondary institutions are fielding questions from graduating students and their families regarding graduation ceremonies. Both provincial and First Nation schools are making arrangements to host safe graduation celebrations either remotely or at a later date when it is safe to do so. Graduates and their families are encouraged to contact their schools for confirmation. Ogichidaa Francis Kavanaugh is preparing an address to the graduates that will be shared with all communities.

EDUCATION SUPPORTS AVAILABLE

Nationally, the federal government announced emergency fundsmade available to First Nations through an application based process that included the needs of First Nation schools. Ontario's Ministry of Education provided emergency funds that families and/or caregivers applied for online for students up to 12 years old, or up to the age of 21 for students with special needs. In Treaty #3, First Nations have been in contact with their 2nd level service providers and additional supports have been provided.

With school closures, most schools implemented online learning however it became apparent that many communities lacked the internet capacity or access to electronic devices. A partnership between Rogers, Apple and school boards was established which provided hubs and electronic devices to school boards which were distributed at their discretion. The local school boards in Treaty #3 have worked to provide these resources to their Treaty #3 students. School boards are currently working on the provision of mental health and special education supports and services to students over the summer. Students and their families are encouraged to contact their schools for available resources.

EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR STUDENTS DURING COVID 19

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

1. Ontario Ministry of Education Support for Families fund

- One time funding that Parents and Caregiver can apply online at: http://www.iaccess.gove.on.ca/FamilyAppWeb/public/index.html
- $200 for children 0-12 years
- $250 for children with special need aged 0-21 year

POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS

1. Ontario Student Assistance Program

- Funds were made available for eligible Northern and Remote PS students for their return travel to their FN communities, applications to be made with their PS Institutions
- Students have been provided with interest relief and payment deferral from their Canada Student and OSAP Loan Payments during this time

2. Canada Emergency Student Benefit

- Applications can be done via Canada Revenue Agency or Service Canada
- Period: May to August 2020
- $1250 per month per student
- $1750 per month per students with disabilities or a caregiver
- Additional grants available for students volunteering with Covid-19 supports in community.

3. First Nation Post-Secondary Student Emergency Support Program Funds

- First Nation post-secondary students to apply with their First Nations
- First Nation communities to determine funding for their students
- Period: May to August 2020 To be confirmed
- First Nations will receive their notices by June 2020

REGIONAL EDUCATION AGREEMENTS

Indigenous Services Canada sent out its 2nd call for proposals for the Regional Education Agreement. This policy framework will provide First Nations with the ability to identify the education goals, support systems and funding required either individually, or in an aggregate partnership with other First Nation communities. With a deadline of June 15 for proposals and supporting letters due June 30, First Nations and organizations may submit for the following activities:

1. Information Sessions on education transformation
2. Technical tables to discuss funding and/or prepare to negotiate a Regional Education Agreement
3. Negotiation of Regional Education Agreements

GCT3 Education has developed a proposal for Treaty #3 First Nations to consider which includes coordinating an information and reporting session, technical tables to discuss and develop an enhanced Treaty #3 Funding Formula and Regional Education Agreement (REA) template. The deadline for Treaty #3 First Nations to provide letters of support to GCT3's proposal will be June 15 to include with the proposal. Participating First Nations will benefit from the discussions and can decide on how they will proceed with the negotiations phase.

SCIENCE NORTH PARTNERSHIP

Grand Council Treaty #3 (GCT3) has been invited to become a partner with Science North and other local organizations in Kenora to host a Science Week Festival. Originally scheduled for June 2020, this week-long event provides a variety of activities that demonstrate how science is used and benefits us in everyday life. GCT3 is looking forward to enhancing this event with the inclusion of Anishinaabe teachings and traditional knowledge in this event.

Wabaseemoong school's 'brown bag' lunch program coordinated by Julia Scott/Beatrice Michaud is provided every Tuesday and Thursday for students

EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

On March 31, 2020, the EPP tripartite MOU between GCT3, the Ministry of Education and ISC, was submitted for final review. The resulting agreed upon activities will enhance the existing programs and services, as well as empower First Nation's with the knowledge that their collaboration with the tripartite partners will improve the education system for all students in the Treaty #3 territory. We hope to have a signing ceremony by fall assembly (the current status of which is uncertain on account of the Covid-19 crisis).

FIRST NATION INUIT YOUTH EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) First Nations and Inuit Youth Employment Strategy, supports initiatives providing First Nation and Inuit and Youth with work experience about career options and opportunities to developing skills to gain employment and developing careers.

Grand Council Treaty #3 is anticipating to have those employment opportunities posted for summer students and mentored work placement employment by June 2020

TREATY #3 ONLINE SCIENCE FAIR

Grand Council Treaty #3 | Education Department is hosting an Online Science fair open to all Treaty #3 Members with many great prizes to be won. There are 3 categories; kids 6-12, youth 13-18 and adults 19 and up

These weekly contests will have various themes in a 4 week time span. The first week contest has officially opened and started with a theme of “Water”, please visit our website and/or social media outlets for updates

Science enthusiasts are encouraged to submit their videos and/or photo voice projects using the hashtag **#treaty3science** on social media outlets through facebook, Instagram, twitter and or submitting via email or inquiries to edu.assistant@treaty3.ca

EDUCATION CONFERENCE

This year, the first T3 Education conference ‘Creating a Path Forward for Student Success’ occurred on March 5 and 6 at the 7 Generations Education Institute in Kenora. Over 50 educators from throughout the Treaty 3 region attended to discuss various topics including emergency school planning, restorative justice practices in schools, land-based learning, digital traditional knowledge mapping, and traditional ecological knowledge. Pamela Toulouse from Laurentian University and Kristen Ward of Lac Seul were our keynote speakers.

FIRST NATION LIFELONG LEARNING TABLE

This partnership with the Ministry of Education is intended to improve and enhance working relationships with the ministry, school boards and other education organizations. Our current work plan focuses on Relationships, Language & Culture, Curriculum, and Policy. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, GCT3 is working with the Ministry to re-profile funds for activities and resources that can be used by First Nations students and their families during school closures.

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE GATHERING

A Traditional Knowledge Gathering was held in Seine River from Nov. 19-21, 2019. Over 75 knowledge keepers discussed education, health, and the environment. A traditional knowledge protocol handbook for the Treaty 3 area is being drafted.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

ECONOMIC - TREATY #3 INVESTMENT GROUP

ECONOMIC - TREATY #3 INVESTMENT GROUP DEPARTMENT UPDATE

TREATY #3 INVESTMENT GROUP

The new Board of Directors are in place, and we will convene an inaugural meeting with them when we return to work. We will announce names of the Directors as soon as we complete the Feast for the name of the corporation, logo and location of the corporation. This inaugural meeting will be held jointly with the Economic Chiefs Committee. The Economic Chiefs Committee is comprised of Chief Derrick Henderson, Sagkeeng – Chair, Chief Darlene Comegan, Northwest Angle #33 – Co Chair, Chief Judy Whitecloud, Lac Des Mille Lacs, Chief Wayne Smith, Naicatchewenin Chief Janice Henderson, Mitaanjigamiing, Chief Esther Pitchenese, Wabigoon Lake and Chief Marilyn Sinclair, Washagamis Bay.

- We have completed the Strategic Plan for the Treaty #3 Investment Group. T3IG Strategic Plan
- Rob Campbell, MNP has completed the Investment Policy for review by the Treaty #3 Investment Group Board of Directors. MNP Website
- We have reached out to the Faculty of Business Administration, Lakehead University to discuss developing an Economic Opportunities Study/Analysis for the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty #3. This may provide an opportunity to develop a partnership with the university while allowing for an opportunity for students to gain experience with First Nations and utilize resources from Lakehead University.

GRAND COUNCIL TREATY #3 INVESTMENT GROUP

TREATY #3 INVESTMENT GROUP DEVELOPS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND INVESTMENTS TO GENERATE WEALTH FOR TREATY 3 SHAREHOLDERS.

VALUES

RESPECT AND ACCOUNTABILITY
TRUTH AND TRANSPARENCY
HUMILITY AND WISDOM
HONESTY AND INTEGRITY
LOVE AND COURAGE

Chief Executive Officer, Gary Allen | 807.788.1003 ext.202 | Gary.Allen@treaty3.ca

INFRASTRUCTURE & BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY

GRAND COUNCIL TREATY #3 INVESTMENT GROUP

In collaboration with Jennifer McKibben, Digital Health Support Analyst, Grand Council Treaty #3, we have been in discussions with Bell Canada to develop a business case to increase the capacity of high speed internet to the region. As a result of COVID-19, Chiefs, Staff and government officials have had to change how they operate and participate in teleconference calls in order to complete business. This has shown the lack of safe, reliable, high speed internet available within the region. We have had promising discussions with Bell Canada and Jennifer will be following up with First Nations to complete a technical scan and support for collective action on increasing bandwidth within the Nation.

COVID-19

The impact of COVID-19 on economic activity within the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty #3 and the local economy has been substantial. Many Anishinaabeg are now working in the informal economy and have come to rely primarily on income from their First Nation, Treaty #3 Agencies, Economic Development Corporations and individual businesses that may rely on seasonal work and tourism, which have also been impacted by COVID-19.

We have been completing an analysis of the impacts on business operations within First Nations, local municipalities and towns that service Treaty #3 citizens. We have asked store operators how COVID-19 has changed operational hours, changed approaches to serving clients and closures, website information and contact information.

All the businesses we approached have been cordial and helpful and happy to provide information. We will continue to update information over the coming weeks as we continue to monitor COVID-19.

The government is launching a phased-in approach to reopening the economy to ensure there are appropriate measures in place so workplaces can open safely. Public health officials will carefully monitor each stage for two to four weeks, as they assess the evolution of the COVID-19 outbreak to determine if it is necessary to change course to maintain public health.

- **STAGE 1:** FOR BUSINESSES THAT WERE ORDERED TO CLOSE OR RESTRICT OPERATIONS, OPENING SELECT WORKPLACES THAT CAN IMMEDIATELY MODIFY OPERATIONS TO MEET PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDANCE.

- **STAGE 2:** OPENING MORE WORKPLACES, BASED ON RISK ASSESSMENTS, WHICH MAY INCLUDE SOME SERVICE INDUSTRIES AND ADDITIONAL OFFICE AND RETAIL WORKPLACES.

- **STAGE 3:** OPENING OF ALL WORKPLACES RESPONSIBLY AND FURTHER RELAXING OF RESTRICTIONS ON PUBLIC GATHERINGS.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF) is a NEW special one-time relief fund established by the Government of Canada to support businesses and organizations economically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. It will help to address gaps left by other measures as part of Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, and complement those already provided by other levels of government, as well as take into account regional needs and realities.

A total of $49.5 million has been allocated in support of Northern Ontario businesses and Government organizations, and will be allocated through two funding streams.

A stimulus package will be delivered across Canada through the National Aboriginal Capital Corporation Association (NACCA) and a network of 59 Aboriginal Financial Institutions (AFI), including NADF. This stimulus package targets First Nation's businesses impacted by Covid-19.

"The Federal government and NACCA are working diligently to finalize details in the package that will ensure economic stability of Aboriginal businesses impacted by COVID-19. We expect this to be available in the coming weeks and NADF will be reaching out to our clients when the package becomes available. In the meantime, we thank you for your patience and encourage you to keep in contact with your Account Manager".

GRAND COUNCIL TREATY #3
The GOVERNMENT OF THE ANISHINAABE NATION in Treaty #3

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

TERRITORIAL PLANNING UNIT

TERRITORIAL PLANNING UNIT DEPARTMENT UPDATE

NATURAL RESOURCES SPECIALIST

Emily Wyszynski joined Grand Council Treaty #3 in January 2020 as Natural Resources Specialist. She comes to the TPU with a background in environmental consulting and has spent several years working on a project with a community in Treaty 3. Emily has spent the last few months connecting with community members and industry contacts to learn and better understand her role as it relates to resource-based sectors including forestry and mining. She is eager to continue learning from communities and welcomes invitations to attend local engagement sessions at any time.
Contact: Emily.Wyszynski@treaty3.ca

COMMUNITY BASED MONITORING

The TPU will continue to expand the CBM program through the 2020 field season. Training at IISD-Experimental Lakes Area this summer is postponed however, staff will continue to work with communities virtually and when restrictions are lifted to ensure the continued efforts in this program.

To start CBM in your community please contact:
environment.monitor@treaty3.ca

RESOURCE REVENUE SHARING

The RRS Chiefs Committee and GCT3 Staff continue to work with Ontario for the administration of this agreement. Key dates coming up are April 30, 2020 RRS reports from participating communities due to GCT3. May 31, 2020, GCT3 report due to Ontario.

To get information on the RRS Agreement, please contact:
water@treaty3.ca

Zhaagimaa Waabo

MESSAGE FROM THE TPU
THE TPU HOPES EVERYONE IS SAFE AND HEALTHY DURING THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES. IF THERE IS ANY SUPPORT NEEDED THROUGHOUT THIS TIME PLEASE FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT TO US. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AS SOON AS IT'S SAFE TO DO SO!

Find us on Facebook

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING

GCT3 has hired 3 Emergency Preparedness Planning Coordinators. The coordinators will act in providing support and training for pandemics, floods, fires, etc.
For information and support please contact: monika.huminuk@treaty3.ca

Greg Allan (Fort Frances Area), Monika Huminuk (Kenora Area), Charles Meekis (Lac Seul and Area) are here to support you, through the development and personalization of your communities emergency plan.

Recently a Territory, "Emergency Plan and Guide", was developed and sent to all communities within the Treaty #3 Nation. The Plan was created to provide communities with concise information when predicting an emergency, and how/what to prepare for. We now have a number of communities that have completed their plans, and we look forward to assisting others.
Contact: Monika.Huminuk@treaty3.ca

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING SUPPORT

GCT3 has purchased generators and defibrillators for communities during the COVID19 Pandemic. Many communities have already arranged pick up, for information and pick up arrangement please have community leadership contact the TPU. Contact: Geneva.Kejick@treaty3.ca

TREATY #3 WIDE RECYCLING AND EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS PROJECT

The TPU is developing an emissions reduction project. By recycling alone, Treaty #3 can potentially decrease emissions by 74000 tonnes! The TPU will provide capacity building within communities. The TPU has also purchased 100 recycling bins for distribution. For Municipal Transfer Services Agreement support please contact the TPU.
Contact: Geneva.Kejick@treaty3.ca

Recycling bins available to Treaty #3 communities for pick up. Please arrange with TPU Staff

INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

On February 19, 2020 in Kenora, ON, Grand Council Treaty #3 Leadership and Staff met with the International Joint Commission Commissioners and Staff. The discussions centered around continued relationship development and how the IJC and Treaty #3 can work better together in relation to issues such as water levels, water quality, wild rice and other priority areas. Initiatives talked about included a water gathering, an IJC liaison position and continued work to develop a wild rice communication protocol.
Contact: water@treaty3.ca

SHORELINE CLEANUPS

Due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus engagement sessions in communities have been postponed for the time being and may resume in the Spring. However, the TPU will still be able to provide the equipment and cover associated costs for communities to hold their own shoreline clean-ups this summer. To express interest in participating please email the TPU's environmental monitoring coordinator at environment.monitor@treaty3.ca

TRAPPING HARMONIZATION AGREEMENT

Please note TRAPPERS (THERE WILL BE NO FUR PICK-UP BY FUR HARVESTERS UNTIL FURTER NOTICE) *****

Treaty #3 has renewed a 5 year Trapping Harmonization Agreement until March 31, 2024. The primary objective of this agreement is to harmonize the administration of trapping and furbearer management between Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF) and the Trapping Centre. The agreement outlines the day to day administration of trapping and was not an attempt to interpret treaty rights or to amend the treaty.
Contact: Dave.Lindsay@treaty3.ca

Trapping Committee and OMNRF Reps hold Trapping meetings in community roundhouses as this keeps negotiations on the right path for Anishinaabe Trappers.

CORDA

The Canada Ontario Resource Development Agreement is an agreement between Canada, Ontario and First Nations' members in Ontario. The agreement promotes resources and economic development initiatives of First Nations members by providing financial assistance to develop and utilize renewable natural resources. 2021-22 Applications for this funding will be available on the GCT3 website August 2020.

NWMO SURVEY ON YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

A Youth Engagement Survey was given to attendees at GCT#3's Youth Gathering earlier this year. The purpose of the survey was to assess Treaty #3 Youth awareness related to the NWMO site selection process and to evaluate how current engagement activities have contributed to this awareness. This information will be used to inform the Territorial Planning Unit's current engagement strategy to ensure that the voice of the youth in Treaty #3 is being heard during the site selection process.

Results from the survey indicate that Treaty #3 youth are generally not aware of the NWMO site selection process or that a site near Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation and Ignace is one of two sites remaining in this process. Youth from Treaty #3 First Nations with their own NWMO community engagement coordinators tended to be more aware about the site selection process but still had knowledge gaps related to certain activities related to this process. Current and former Treaty #3 Youth Executive Council members also had a greater awareness of the site selection process. Survey results also show that Treaty #3 youth want to be engaged on this topic but requires the development of new strategies and tools to communicate important information related to the site selection process. This is reinforced by the results, which show that youth are less likely to rely on social or web-based media for their information, which is due to several factors including access to a computer or the internet.
Contact: NWMO.liaison@treaty3.ca

Sydney Flett & Ethan Fobister pictured with raffle prizes they won for completing the survey. All youth who completed survey were eligible to win these and other prizes.

GRAND COUNCIL TREATY #3

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS (I.R.S)

INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL DEPARTMENT UPDATE

As of March 17, 2020 with the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic the IRS program of Grand Council Treaty #3 began working remotely from home.

The IRS team is managing well in terms of our own Mental Wellness and using :

- Resource list-best apps to maintain Mental wellness
- Elder list to access if needing a cultural approach or support
- Registered for the Ontario mental health network
- PTSD Coach Canada – a tool to help manage symptoms associated with PTSD
- Debriefing with each other - keeping the lines of communication open
- Narcotics and alcoholics apps to attend online meetings
- Employee family assistance program (EFAP) is available for self and family

IN SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITIES WE WORK WITH;

- The IRS team continues to provide mental health support to the people impacted by the IRS legacy and MMIWG by phone or email
- Provided emergency care packages (groceries) to families
- Provided masks for their use if needed
- Provided funds to Sweat Lodge keepers to repair their lodges and also purchased wood
- Start off the day by doing Wellness checks with individuals by phone or email
- Doing IDS applications with individuals that are requesting the assistance by phone or email
- Providing answers by phone and email around the Class Action Law claims that affect the communities

TREATY #3 IS MANDATED TO SUPPORT CLAIMANTS THROUGHOUT THE INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT PROGRESS (I.A.P) AS WELL AS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT AND SERVICES THROUGH AWARENESS OF TRADITIONAL TEACHINGS IN RESPECT TO REBUILDING ITS FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES. HEALING BECAME AN INITIATIVE AS A RESULT OF THE INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL LEGACY

- RESOURCE TRAINING
- QUESTIONNAIRE REGARDING OUR SERVICES & REQUESTS
- IN-SERVICE TRAINING
- SUPPORT CLAIMANTS THROUGH HEARING PROCESS
- COMMUNITY SESSIONS
- PRESENTATIONS
- DEADLINES

- Start using the Blue Jeans app for debriefing meetings for the team
- Keeping up with quarterly Reports.
- Inform the people that Keewatin memorial area has been "retooled" to serve as a makeshift COVIDE-19 isolation centre for the homeless and operated by the All Nations Partners. To apply for testing they must contact the Northwestern Health Unit Hotline: **1-866-468-2240** for screening or go online **www.nwhu.on.ca/covid-19**

In reviewing the 2020-2021 work plan and portfolio, the ongoing core activities are affected in terms of not being able to do the field work, host Gatherings and do community engagements e.g. Information sessions to claimants and their families. We can certainly continue to provide and liaise and make referrals to mental health service providers and Elder as needed. The IRS team can continue to do Wellness checks with their clientele. These past few weeks has been difficult in sharing information and providing support to the communities because of office closures and restrictions on travel. Community check points have been established and need to be respected to protect communities.

The significance of cultural gatherings we were doing with the communities and the lingering memories and trauma caused by the banning of cultural activities of the past has triggered some of our Elders with this COVID-19 pandemic. There are a few Elders that live alone and are very lonely at this time which again is a trigger of being in a residential school. We do our best in phoning them and see how they are doing and inform other family members to check up on their relatives if a concern arises.

With the postponement of events and gatherings; communities have continued their cultural practises and ceremonies by ensuring physical distancing; having the ceremonies with only family members who live in the same household and connecting via Zoom conferencing and FaceTime.

Delores.Kelly@treaty3.ca 807-464-0037 | Larry.Henry@treaty3.ca 807-464-4638 | Donald.Kelly@treaty3.ca 807-464-1261

INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL HEALTH SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Indian Residential School Health Support Program had been given it's mandate to provide Mental Health support in 2009 to assist those members and their family under this Indian Residential School Agreement.

At this point the IRS-HSP is still maintaining support for the Indian Residential School Survivors and their family members with the following referral support servicing to Mental Health Service providers in the region and the First Nation Communities.

The IRS-HSP maintain connection with survivors and family members:

- Telephone
- Email
- Social
- Media
- Instant messaging

The IRS-HSP continue to provide support for survivors' that are dealing with past trauma with the following Class Action processes:

CLASS ACTION PROCESS

1. **INDIAN DAY SCHOOL CA AGREEMENT**
2. **INDIAN DAY SCHOOL SCHOLARS**
3. **60'S SCOOP CA AGREEMENT**
4. **FEDERAL RUN INDIAN HOSPITAL**

IRS SUPPORT WORKER, DONALD KELLY

Boozhoo Anishinaabewitog, Hello everyone my name is Don Kelly and I work here at Grand Council Treaty #3 as a Health Support Worker. This means that I help all Indian Residential School Survivors, Indian Day School Survivors, and Indian Hospitals. We also support all other Anishinaabe organizations that need support in their efforts to heal the broken souls that have survived traumas, abuse in all levels and I also try to help those who want to learn Anishinaabemowin. I've been all over the Lake of the Woods area and I have met many beautiful people who have put their hearts on the line to those who are afflicted from the memories of residential and day school. Just recently I was invited to attend and help with the Grand Council Treaty #3 spring ceremony. We had an esteemed elder of the Kenora area perform and grace us with his knowledge of the Anishinaabe practice of this special ceremony to that creator for all he has given us and continues to provide us with. We were invited again this past week for another ceremony in honor to all 28 chiefs in Treaty #3 that due to COVID-19 couldn't have the spring assembly. I felt so grateful, honored that I could be apart of this momentous occasion!

I would like to say kichi-miigwech to Ogichidaa, Francis Kavannaugh and his wife for making me feel absolutely welcomed and to the elder Langford Ogemaa .

Please stay healthy and safe, Miinawa igawabamin, Don.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

KAAKEWAASEYA JUSTICE SERVICES

KAAKEWAASEYA JUSTICE SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE

UPDATES FROM OUR JUSTICE DIRECTOR

COVID-19 RESPONSE FROM THE DIRECTOR: ARTHUR HUMINUK

We would like to thank the Chief's who have given us positive and meaningful guidance and now work together in finding solutions in providing "best practices" in continuing in keeping our 28 Treaty #3 First Nations safe in the time of the pandemic.

GCT3 Justice Services continues to provide solutions in providing essential services and supports to our Treaty #3 Territory and stakeholders due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 are:

- Ongoing services to our 28 Treaty #3 First Nations communities are a priority
- Safety for GCT3 staff and GCT3 First Nations communities are crucial

- Some restrictions will be applied due to social distancing safety protocols

GCT3 clients needs are being dealt with by:

- Phone
- E-mail
- Video conferencing
- Facebook, Twitter, and GCT3 website

KAAKEWAASEYA MEANS "GOOD PATH" AND IT GIVES DIRECTION TO THE MANY PROGRAMS OPERATING UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE GRAND COUNCIL TREATY #3 JUSTICE PORTFOLIO:

- COMMUNITY JUSTICE
- YOUTH REINTEGRATION
- YOUTH INTERVENTION
- INDIGENOUS BAIL VERIFICATION & SUPERVISION
- GLADUE REPORT WRITERS
- GLADUE AFTERCARE
- INDIGENOUS SUPPORT NETWORK
- INDIGENOUS JUSTICE LIAISON

For more information on our programs:
gct3.ca/people/justice

CORRECTIONAL SERVICES COVID-19 PLANS & PREPAREDNESS

Canada's courts are actively responding to the COVID-19 situation in an effort to both stem the spread of the virus and maintain operations to the greatest extent possible. Courts have adjusted their operations to ensure the safety and well-being of the public and all court participants – including the judiciary, court staff, litigants, witnesses, media and the general public.

Canadians involved in court matters—including family and civil trials, criminal trials, and tax court proceedings—are encouraged to consult the appropriate court website before attending any court or taking any procedural step.

Notices and updates: *https://www.ontariocourts.ca/ocj/covid-19/*

COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTRE UPDATE

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTRE?

Over 70 communities around the world, Justice Centres move out of the traditional courtroom and into the community setting. These centres bring together justice, health, employment, education and social services to address the root causes of crime, break the cycle of offending, and improve public safety and community well-being.

The key objectives of the KJC portfolio are:

- GCT#3 first prime objective is to lower the Indigenous over-representation and incarceration rates in the mainstream Jails in Ontario.
- Involvement and the development of the KJC in Kenora to deliver Justice in a restorative manner.
- Development of a Traditional based court model tailored to the unique needs of the First Nations of Treaty #3.Providing the KJC with Indigenous judges, lawyers and crown attorneys.
- Community resource planning for the retention of Indigenous judges, lawyers, crown attorneys.

- Creating an Elders list within the Treaty #3 First Nations members to provide the healing, safety and well-being of everyone involved in the restorative justice process.
- Providing after-care to the accused and to the victims of crime in the inter-relational healing process for the client, accused, and Treaty #3 First Nations.

The KJC improves outcomes for offenders, victims and communities by holding individuals accountable for their offences while connecting them to the needed justice, health and mental facilities and referral to employment and skills training.

ANNOUNCEMENT

We are honoured to announce that we have found a suitable space for the Restorative Justice Center pilot project!

Over the last year, the Ministry of Attorney General held needs assessment meetings in Kenora with all stakeholders to identify a need for a community justice centre and potential models.

Centre will be designed to reflect an appropriate traditional model for our community members.

KAAKEWAASEYA HINAABIDA

JUSTICE STRATEGIC DIRECTION PLAN 2020-2023

THE TRADITIONAL NAME OF THE JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN!

Kaakewaaseya means "travelling with a good spirit and direction."
Hinaabida means "let's look, move, think, seek and plan to the everlasting light."

– ELDER HOWARD COPENACE

GCT#3 held its strategic planning in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in the acknowledged Treaty #1 territories of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Dakota, Dene, Métis, and Oji-Cree Nations.

The Kaakewaaseya Justice Programs Path for 2020-2023 are:

<u>Strengthen Partnerships within Kaakewaaseya Justice Programs</u>

- Encourage working together with Police, courts, health, and schools.Building co-working environments with Treaty #3 communities.
- Create Treaty #3 Leadership in communities and GCT#3.

<u>Harmonize Traditional and Mainstream Laws</u>

- Educate and advocate the system on our culture, language and traditional ways.
- Establish more restorative justice circles.
- Support the KLC team by establishing emergency response protocols that align with our traditional values.

<u>Creation of Treaty #3 Justice Law</u>

- Elders gatherings.
- Elders knowledge sharing gatherings.

<u>*Treaty #3 Restorative Justice Centre*</u>

- Define who and what is in the building.
- Program development.
- Training staff, communities and volunteers.

DEBWEWIN SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

DEBWEWIN, OJIBWAY WORD FOR "TRUTH."

We are pleased to announce that we have acquired two law students to work in our department for the summer! Our department has provided rare opportunities for prospective law students to complete their 13-week summer internship through the Debwewin Summer Law Program.

Internship involvement included:

- Educating community members in navigating the judicial system.
- Preparing educational materials for the Justice Department.
- Research and transcribing.

The Debwewin Summer Law program is a summer internship program funded jointly by the Ministry of the Attorney General's Indigenous Justice Division and Ontario law schools.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

TREATY & ABORIGINAL RIGHTS RESEARCH

TREATY & ABORIGINAL RIGHTS RESEARCH DEPARTMENT UPDATE

INTRODUCTION

Bhoo-Zhoo Treaty #3 Communities, I hope that you are all doing well during this COVID-19 out-break. We at the T.A.R.R unit are preparing for the up-coming year of research work.

Treaty and Aboriginal Rights Research. (T.A.R.R.) is the technical unit that provides coordination and assists in the research for a number of treaty right infringements caused by the government of Canada and their agents.

HISTORY OF OUR TREATY

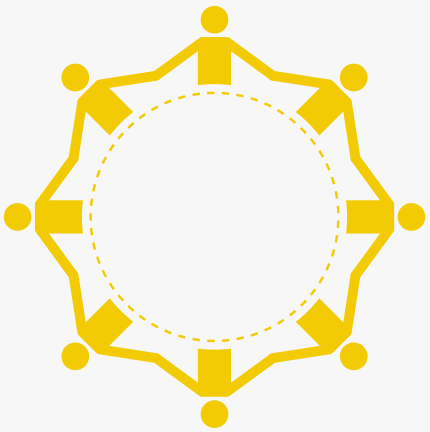
In 1870 negotiations started between leadership of Treaty #3 First Nations and Canada. The negotiation of Treaty #3 lasted three years and is the longest negotiations of the 11 numbered treaties in Canada.

RESEARCH PROGRAM

At the request of, and in consultation with a First Nation, T.A.R.R. will research and develop specific claims such as reserve land surrenders, reserve land alienation, the administration of Indian Trust funds and Treaty land entitlements. The T.A.R.R. units are provided at no charge to its member First Nations. The T.A.R.R. unit will work with a First Nation to explore all available options that may lead to a resolution of the claim. The T.A.R.R. unit also monitors developments in contemporary First Nations issues such as the application of rights guaranteed in the Treaties, case law on related issues, Indian Act and claims policy reform. The T.A.R.R. unit receives funding on an annual basis from Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada to undertake claims research and development on behalf of its member First Nations.

OUR ETHNO-HISTORIANS

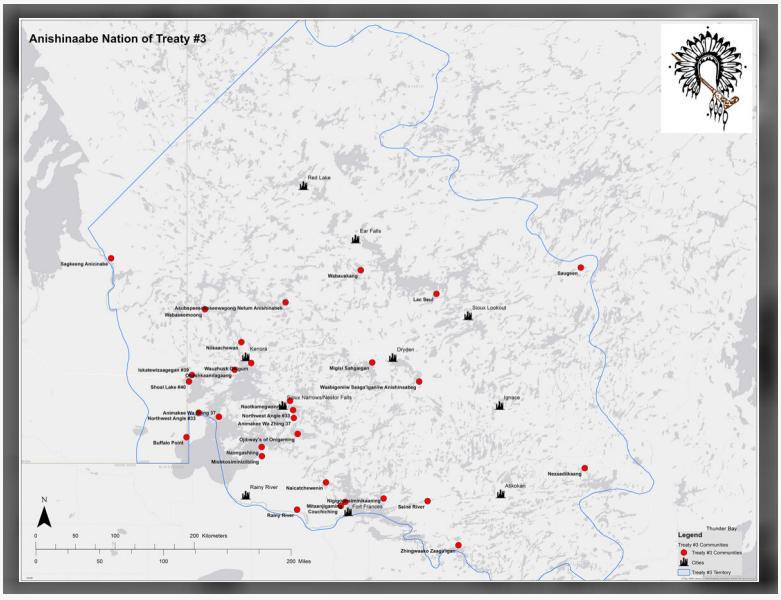
Ethno-historians are the core group whom do the bulk of the research, Mr. Leo Waisberg and Mr. Tim Holzkamm are the two main historians and they have been providing the research going back to the 1970's. They both have their Masters degrees in their perspective fields and are the best in what they do and our claims have been accepted for negotiations because of their work.



SPECIFIC CLAIM PROCESS

The Specific Claims Process aims to resolve grievances between First Nations and the Government of Canada. A Specific Claim arises when the Crown has an outstanding lawful obligation to a First Nation because its agents failed to uphold a treaty or other agreement with the First Nation; violated the Crown's statutory obligations, improperly administered First Nation land, money or other assets, or illegally sold or otherwise disposed of First Nations land.

TARR conducts research into the specific grievances and produces a claim report. The draft claim report is then reviewed by TARR's legal counsel. Legal Counsel often has changes to the claim report and develops the legal principals and arguments section of the claim. Once these components are integrated into the report to produce a final draft of the claim, the First Nation can then choose to submit it to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada's Specific Claims Branch (SCB) for review. For a claim to be accepted for review by the SCB, it must fall within parameters outlined by the ***Specific Claims Policy and Process Guide***. If, upon the completion of that review, Canada agrees to accept the claim for negotiation, then negotiations can begin, and hopefully lead to a settlement. Depending on the type of claim, provincial and/or territorial governments may be invited to participate in the settlement negotiations.



THE SOUTHWIND LITIGATION

In the 1920s, members of the Lac Seul First Nation ("LSFN") became aware of plans to build a dam outside their reserve to support downstream hydroelectric development. It was contemplated that the dam would raise the level of Lac Seul and flood the reserve lands surrounding the lake. Canada did not seek LSFN's consent to surrender its reserve land, nor did it expropriate the land. The dam was built in 1929 and the water level rose to cover over 11,000 acres of LSFN's reserve land; nearly one-fifth of the reserve was rendered unusable. Canada, Manitoba and Ontario entered into agreements concerning compensation for losses. Canada reached a settlement with Ontario in 1943 and put settlement funds into the LSNF's trust account. In 1985, LSFN filed a specific claim for the losses associated with the flooding. In 1991, LSFN initiated an action in Federal Court. The Federal Court awarded the applicants $30 million in equitable compensation for breach of fiduciary duty committed by Canada. On appeal, the majority dismissed the applicants' appeal. A dissenting judge would have allowed the appeal and remitted the assessment of equitable compensation for redetermination.

***Provided by The Supreme Court of Canada website.**

In recent months the Supreme Court of Canada agreed with Lac Seul First Nation and that the government failed to consult with Lac Seul before they flooded their lands without compensation of any kind. There many First Nations who had their lands flooded in the similar fashion and this case will give the template on how the governments compensates First Nation for lands effected by flooding or other infringements such as farming claims. We need to stand with Lac Seul and support them, for this is a important ruling and the Treaty #3 communities and other First Nations across Canada will be effected by this.

GRAND COUNCIL TREATY #3

The GOVERNMENT OF THE ANISHINAABE NATION in Treaty #3

SERVING 28 FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES

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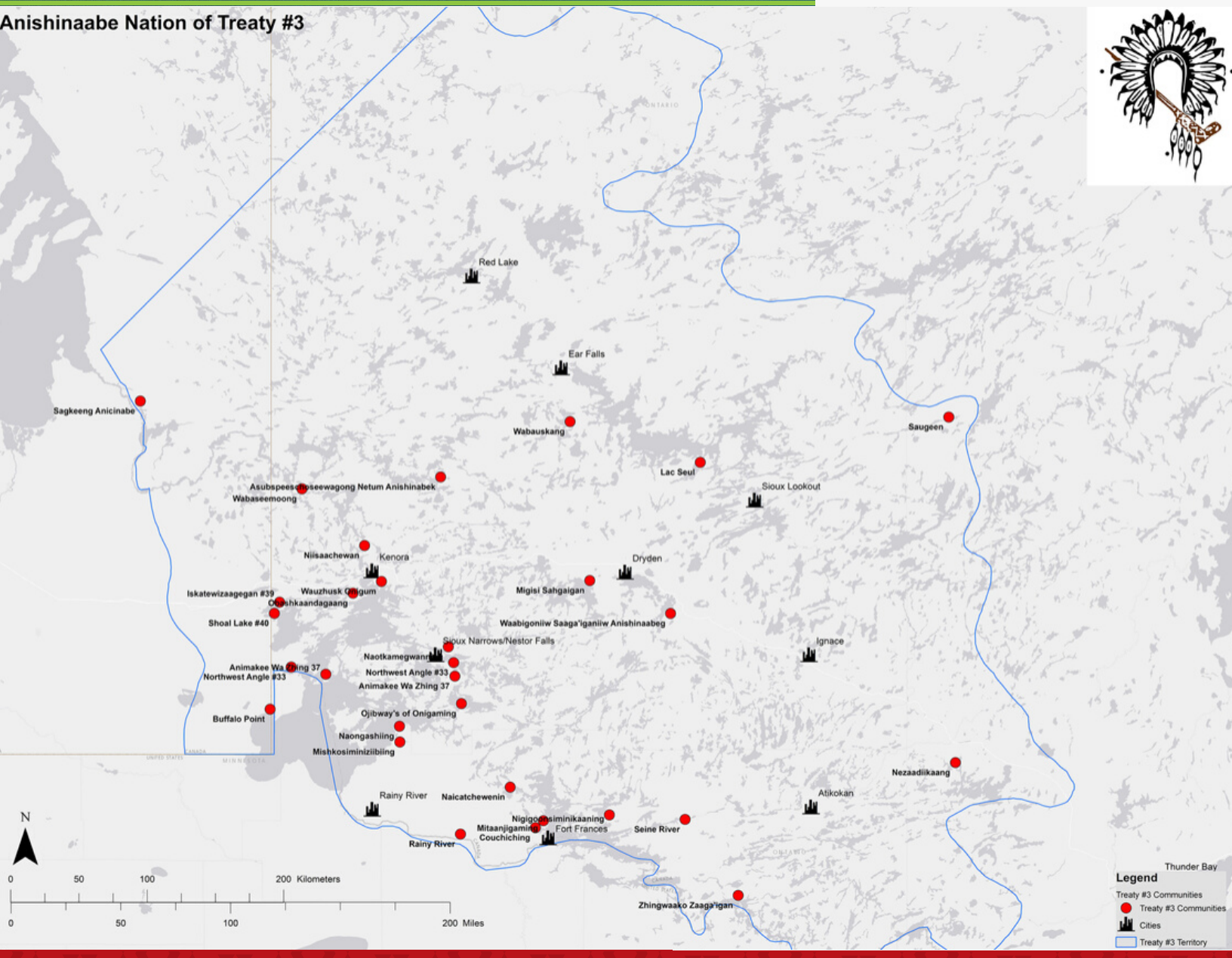
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