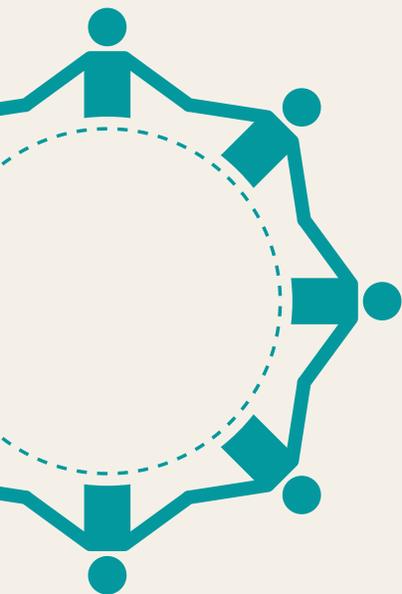




WINTER NEWSLETTER 2021

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



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



TREATY #3 CHIEF COMMITTEES

SOCIAL

Chief Randy Fobister, Asubpeeschosesewagong (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, Nootkamegwanning
Chief Jim Major, Animakee Wa Zhing

ENVIRONMENTAL

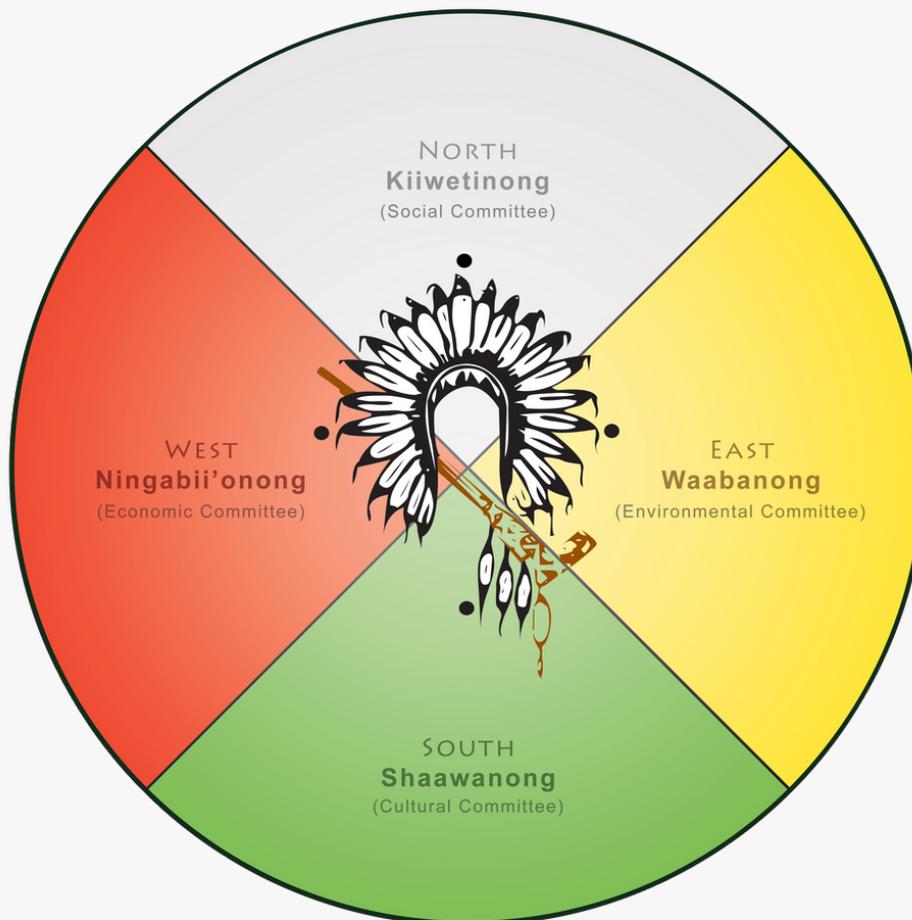
Chief Will Windigo, Nigigoonsiminikaaning (Chair)
Chief Arnold Gardner, Migisi Sahgaigan (Co-Chair)
Chief Vernon Redsky, Shoal Lake #40
Chief Rob McGinnis, Rainy River
Chief Gerald Lewis, Iskatewizaagegan #39
Chief Waylon Scott, Wabaseemoong
Chief Lorraine Cobiness, Niisaachewan

CULTURAL

Chief Lynn Indian, Mishkosiminiziibiing (Chair)
Chief Candi Kelly, Onigaming (Co-Chair)
Chief Chris Skead, Wauzhushk Onigum
Chief Carrie Boshkaykin, Seine River
Chief Clifford Bull, 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, Waabigoniw Saaga'iganiw
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.



YOUTH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UPDATE

The Treaty #3 Youth Executive Council (YEC) is a constituent council for Grand Council Treaty #3. The YEC actively participates at the territorial, regional, and national levels through their roles on the Shooniyaa Wa-Biitong Board of Directors, Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council, and the Assembly of First Nations National Youth Council. COVID has changed how the YEC has built engagement with youth in Treaty #3. The YEC has relied on social media campaigns and Zoom sessions to connect with youth and understand their needs and the impacts felt with COVID 19. Youth have struggled with maintaining their sobriety when access to mental health and addictions services was limited, youth have had to manage their work and school responsibilities in shared spaces and with shared technology resources, and some youth away at school haven't seen their family in months as the risk of travel is too high. As a result, the YEC has collaborated with Grand Council Treaty #3 to develop youth programming to help support youth during the COVID 19 pandemic and is looking forward to meeting the youth in person in the future.

In partnership with the Grand Council Treaty #3 Health Department, the YEC held a campaign called Kindness Matters. The campaign focused on leading a discussion with youth on the importance of healthy relationships and understanding how they viewed healthy relationships and youth were asked to submit a photo or video explaining what a healthy relationship looks like and why they're important. The YEC received numerous responses from youth in the territory sharing the healthy relationships in their lives and how they built them with people in their lives. The Campaign was a new way for the YEC to connect and engage with youth in light of COVID 19 restrictions. The YEC has created a video and report summary to continue to keep engaging with youth on the topic.

The YEC has been working on their Youth and Elders Pen Pal Project as a way to promote intergenerational knowledge sharing as well as a way to combat loneliness and isolation during the COVID 19 lockdown. Our youth and elders are some of our most vulnerable populations and the Pen Pal Project was created as a way to connect youth and elders across the territory, recognizing that there is often a disconnect and youth may not have access to their cultures in the normal lives. The youth response to the program has underscored the desire from youth to connect with their elders and the project provides a safe and novel way to do so.

The YEC held a campaign at the end of 2020 called #T3YOUTHMASKSUP to highlight youth across the territory who were stepping up to do their part in slowing the spread of COVID 19. Youth were asked to submit a photo of themselves wearing a mask as a way to promote mask wearing in the youth population.



OBISHKINIIGIIG YOUTH COUNCIL

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

 Find us on
Facebook
TREATY #3 YOUTH
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



WOMEN'S COUNCIL UPDATE

GAAGIIDOO-IKWEWAG

The Women's Council works to advocate for the interests of women in Treaty #3. Their initiatives seek to create space for women to build connections and discuss issues of importance to them. They also work to assist initiatives that support capacity development for women in Treaty #3.

Through their advocacy work, the Women's Council has been seeking to address the calls to justice within the MMIWG final inquiry report, as well as human trafficking. Their work has supported the upcoming MMIWG conference and the Red Ribbon Campaign. They have also been working closely with Social department staff to identify shelter supports for women in the current environment of Covid-19.

The Women's Council also sits on the Technical Working Group for Abinoojii Inakonigewin. They have shared their expertise and advice to promote the 5-year implementation plan, participating in monthly meetings. The council also works to support the Nibi Declaration; working with TPU and communities to build awareness around the importance of water in Treaty #3.

The pandemic has been challenging. Yet during this time, the Women's Council would like to encourage all to look for ways to support wellbeing and health. Taking time to be in nature, connect with friends and family virtually or by phone, and find ways to be active are all ways to care for one's self in stressful situations.



WOMEN'S COUNCIL

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

**THE GAAGIIDOO-IKWEWAG
(WOMEN'S COUNCIL) WITHIN THE
ANISHINAABE NATION OF
TREATY #3 REPRESENTS THE
UNIQUE NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS
OF ANISHINAABE WOMEN IN THE
TERRITORY.**

 Find us on
Facebook
TREATY 3 NATION
WOMEN'S GROUP



MEN'S COUNCIL UPDATE

MAMAWICHI-GABOWITAA-ININIWAG

The Men's Council has been working to support their strategic plan. The council has met several times in the fall of 2020 to discuss their strategic priorities and work that can be done to support them. This work involves prioritizing land-based healing, promoting language speakers, restoring relationships, and supporting the Territorial Planning Unit by raising awareness on Manito Aki Inaakonigaawin.



To support wellbeing, the members of the Men's Council have been discussing ways to support cancer screening initiatives in Treaty #3. Ensuring that information is available, accessible and relevant to Treaty #3 communities. The Men's Council also works to promote men's overall wellbeing, including spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical health. During these challenging times, The Men's Council would like to encourage men to reach out for help and support to available services and their network of friends and families. It is important to show support and care for one another as Anishinaabe men.

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic continues to impact daily life. Members of the Men's Council have also been working to address the pandemic in First Nation communities. Currently, council member Daryl Redsky is working in Manitoba to liaise with Community Response Corp and the Canadian Armed Forces. Daryl has been playing a lead role in the community's transient Alternative Isolation centre.

MEN'S COUNCIL

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

**THE MAMAWICHI-GABOWITAA-
ININIWAG (MEN'S COUNCIL)
WITHIN THE ANISHINAABE
NATION OF TREATY #3
REPRESENTS THE NEEDS OF AND
ASPIRATIONS OF THE
ANISHINAABE MEN IN THE
TERRITORY.**



DEPARTMENT UPDATE

POLITICAL
OFFICE OF THE OGICHIDAA

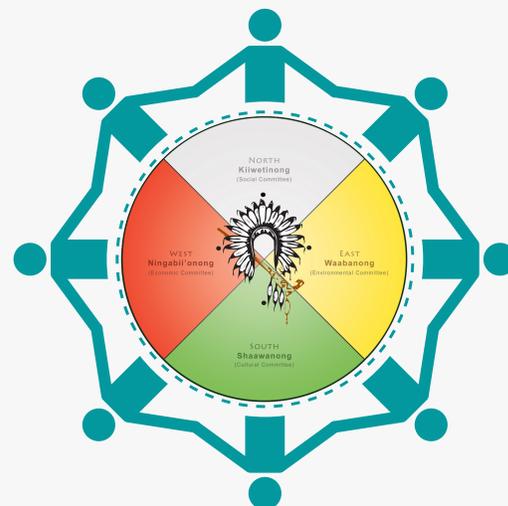
A MESSAGE FROM OGICHIDAA

This winter as we continue to navigate the global pandemic, I have had to be aware of taking care of my own health needs. During my stay in Thunder Bay for radiation treatments, I was happy to find a couple were there also from Naotkamegwaning. We enjoyed weekly visits with one another, and I was grateful to be able to deliver and share with them some great meals from local restaurants. I quickly came to realize the strength and support of these visits provided much needed healing for my spirit and my health. They have such great attitudes despite their own health concerns, and draw inspiration from them. I also visited with my brother and his family, and my sister in law who live in the Lake Superior area, and they provided me with comfort and support. It is so very important, and even more so now, to draw on the comfort provided to you by your circle. I continue to ice fish with my daughters and their families and have taken up bird watching. The 2-3 hour phone/Zoom calls we have all grown accustomed to can be taxing and I enjoy participating as I watch the birds from my window. I've learned a lot about them and am comforted knowing the food I provide to them may help them survive our harsh winters.

On behalf of my entire Team, stay well, practice social distancing and continue to take care of one another.



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



OGICHIDAA FRANCIS KAVANAUGH



On behalf of addressing the needs of our communities, the Political Office is continuing support in the following areas;

- Proceeding with our five year plan towards the implementation in the Nation of our Child Care Law, Abinoojii Inakonigewin
- Support for the continued closure of our international borders with the US to ensure our communities remain safe during the Pandemic
- Review of funding formulas so that we may better address the real needs of our communities for federal dollars for child welfare, education, early learning and health
- Participating with the City of Kenora on the Common Lands/Common Grounds group
- Advocating for the needs of our communities with the federal Government to ensure we determine our own housing needs
- Supporting the communities with the Ministry of Natural Resources & forests in protecting their trapping rights
- Supporting our Tribal Councils and other service providers in information coordination on the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out via a Vaccine Task Force in the territory
- Support for Treaty #3's Broadband Internet Connectivity
- Project for those communities in the territory that require expansion of fibre Internet services
- Supporting the Treaty #3 Police Service in their application for a member to become part of the federal Search and Rescue Volunteer Association of Canada
- Continuing the momentum to develop the Kenora Justice Centre to address service gaps, as well as the creation of court diversion through traditional healing methodologies.



GITIZIMINAN ELDER'S COUNCIL

As the Ogichidaa of the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty #3, I represent your interests at the highest level, and offer my support for the promotion of opportunities for our communities across the territory.

An Executive Chiefs Committee, consisting of four Chiefs from our Four Directions governance model, assists me in evaluating and carrying out the directions I receive from leadership and the Nation. Additionally, I draw upon my office staff and several close advisors to support the day to day business of advancing the collective voice of the Nation.

While our Elder's Council is not formally "organized" as a committee, I do keep a roster of Knowledge Keepers that I engage for specific projects at any given time.

The wisdom of our Elders keeps us grounded and deeply connected to our traditional foundation through our customs and language. In Treaty #3 we are blessed to have so many Elders with us, as well as those who have passed on to the spirit world, who share their teachings of our land, customs and traditions.

As leadership, we look forward to further opportunities to engage with our Knowledge Keepers from across the territory when we can safely do so, and extend our appreciation to the Elders who have been able to assist in our recent virtual activities.



Community Christmas Light Contest



DEPARTMENT UPDATE

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

GRAND COUNCIL TREATY#3 NEWSLETTER UPDATE

I am pleased to share with everyone our winter newsletter. COVID-19 continues to be an unprecedented pressure for all of us. I am proud that our staff, all of our communities and regional organizations continue to be strong and proactive in ensuring the well being of our communities and keeping the COVID case count small. Grand Council Treaty#3 staff have continued to be innovative and adaptive to the challenges posed by COVID 19 and have taken to scheduling meetings via ZOOM and MS Teams. All of the Managers have worked with their staff to create and deliver virtual and online challenges and activities to support our communities during these times. We all remain committed to providing safe opportunities for discussions and to acting on directions provided by leadership.

Meegwetch!

COVID-19 OFFICE SAFETY



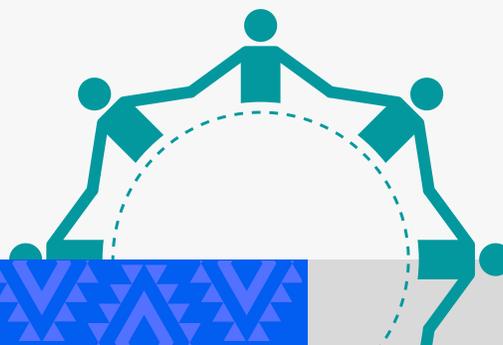
Pictured above is the 6 feet apart signs we have placed around the office and the air purifier that is in the staff lunch room



**GICHI OZHIBI'IGE OGAAMIC
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**



Meet our newest fur coworker while working remotely



ADMINISTRATION

FINANCE OFFICE

Our Finance office has maintained operations and we continue to be easily accessible via phone, email and virtual platform. We continue to communicate with our communities to sign up for EFT (Electronic Fund Transfer) to flow funds faster than our regular mailing out cheques. We will continue to send funds via cheque when there are attachments such as memos and letters that relate to the funding being provided. We are unable to send these attachments via email with the EFT advice.

February is a month to send out the T4s slips to our employees. The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) announced new reporting requirement for all employers who issue T4 slips. In connection with the COVID-19 support programs launched in 2020, employers will have to submit more detailed T4 information, regardless of whether they applied for the various wage subsidy programs or not.

The following link provides more details.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/campaigns/covid-19-update/support-employers-cra-covid-19.html>

Finance staff are preparing our books ready for audit and hopefully we will have it done before the deadline of July 31, 2021.

Once our books are nearing year-end deadline, we will be sending funding confirmation letters to our communities and regional organizations. We hope this will aid your auditors in preparing for your 2020-21 audit and reduce their time significantly.

If you need to speak to Finance office, please feel free to contact us via phone at 807-464-4488 or 807-464-2000 or via email at accounting@treaty3.ca or finance@treaty3.ca.

TRAINING GCT#3 STAFF HAVE TAKEN

- Briefing Note Workshop
- Graphics Communication
- Management Training Workshop
- Financial Management & Audit Preparation
- Food Handling Certification
- First Aid Training
- Health & Safety Committee Training
- Project Management Training
- Service Excellence Training
- Public Speaking
- Respectful Workplace Training



FOOD SECURITY

Our office has been able to collaborate with others in addressing food security and supporting others. Our Managers have been supportive of community initiatives and the provision of gift certificates for essential needs; we received a donation from True North Aid for fruit and vegetables and were also able to collaborate with Tania Cameron and some of our regional organizations on the delivery of potatoes. COVID 19 has not been easy but I believe that it has also brought out the best in all us: cooperation, teamwork and many hands make the task so much easier

GCT#3 STAFF WELLNESS

Before the Christmas Holidays GCT#3 staff were invited to participate in Mental Wellness day. Each staff member signed up and were required to pick 1 of 2 options for a mental wellness. With most staff working remotely it was felt that staff wellness was important especially before the holidays. The mental wellness activity was well received by everyone and will hope to continue again to promote positive staff wellness.

Grand Council Treaty #3 is also hosting a series of events to boost staff moral and team work through virtual events. Recently staff were invited to attend a YOGA sessions via ZOOM and since it was well received GCT#3 will continue to support staff on their wellness journeys. Other staff events in the upcoming month include: Family Scavenger Hunt, Virtual Cooking Show, Beading, Sewing and Learning Traditional Language.

GCT#3 MERCHANDISE STORE

LOCATED AT 2650 HWY 17 EAST

There are various items for sale at the Highway 17 location:

- Blankets
- Spring Windbreaker Jackets
- T-Shirts
- Children's T-Shirts
- Toddler Sweaters
- Back packs
- Sunglasses
- Cups
- Towels
- Ball Caps
- Wireless Speaker
- Plaid Jackets



PLEASE CALL AHEAD

If you wish to visit the store, please call (807) 548-4214 and book an appointment. The merchandise store accepts cash and e-transfers.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

GCT3 continues to modernize its information systems infrastructure. The pandemic has moved many of our employees into remote offices at home. Hardware and software upgrades in all of our locations and for staff have allowed us to continue to work productively and without interruption.

“The transition phase had doubled help desk calls, initially in early 2020.” reports Lyle Kirchner, our Information Systems Manager. “Things have normalized since then as staff have adopted the latest computer and conferencing technology”.





DEPARTMENT UPDATE

HEALTH

GRAND COUNCIL TREATY #3 HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATE

BOOZHOO! HELLO TO EVERYONE

We want to extend our thank you to each and every one of you for doing your part to keep our elders, our families and communities safe from the COVID-19 virus. As you know we are now in our second wave and vaccines are beginning to roll out across the province - but this is a process and it is going to take some time so we must continue to remain vigilant and follow all precautions and directives.

The Health department continues to participant on various provincial and federal tables, and working groups for COVID response updates.

UPDATES

- Finalization of the agreement between Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre and Grand Council Treaty #3 which will allow us to move forward with the recruitment of an Indigenous Care Coordinator to provide support, advocacy and discharge planning for Treaty #3 patients who are admitted to TBRHSC.
- Process to recruit the Diabetes Lead - "Ga-Wii-doo-kaaz" has been initiated.

MEETINGS

- Health Council & Drug Task Force continue to meet on a monthly basis.
- An upcoming Social Chiefs meeting is being planned.



GRAND COUNCIL TREATY #3 HEALTH COUNCIL

THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT AT GCT#3 HAS SUPPORTED COMMUNITIES WITH FUNDING TO ADDRESS COVID-19 RESPONSE IN AREAS OF MENTAL HEALTH; ADDICTIONS; LANDBASED EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

A NUMBER OF ACTIVITES & EVENTS HAVE ALSO BEEN HOSTED TO SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES DURING THIS TIME.

"LETS CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER TO PROTECT THE ONES WE LOVE & CHERISH"

TAKE CARE & STAY SAFE!



UPDATES

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS YOUTH GATHERING

Health Department hosted a 2-day Virtual Gathering in December 2020. The virtual gathering spoke on topics such as: healthy relationships and mental health with youth being involved in discussion. Over 80 youth participated from 9 different communities in Treaty #3. Special Keynote speakers included Mary Galloway, Theo Fleury and Ogichidaa Francis Kavanaugh.

Currently, planning and coordinating a second Youth Gathering for Building Healthy Relationships and Connections. In hopes to collaborate with WNHAC and elders to provide teachings. A special keynote speaker will also be present! The Gathering will take place on the weekend of March 13-14, 2021 via ZOOM. More details to follow!



INDIGENOUS SYSTEMS COORDINATOR

Grand Council Treaty #3 made applications and submitted two proposals to Ministry of Ontario Health for one time emergency funding directly related to COVID-19 pandemic. We were successful with the proposals to support culturally safe mental health and addictions services for our First nation members.

Thus, we have started a training regimen to build capacity at the community level which started January 2021. All trainings are done virtually and are advertised on GCT#3 website and social media.

Trainings are as follows:

- 7 Sacred ways of Healing Trauma
- Grief and Loss Educational workshop
- Drugs, alcohol and Mental Health Awareness
- Stress, Burn out, Indigenous Development and Wellbeing
- Indigenous Mental Health and Wellbeing

Mental Health Survival Guide Toolkit will be forthcoming in the next couple weeks for communities to distribute to families. The info contained in the toolkit has both Anishinaabe Culture and Western methods of healing and selfcare tips and excersises for children, youth, adults and elders.



YOUTH CULTURAL CAMPS

With the YCC budget, the health council will be sent out \$7614.21 to all 23 treaty 3 communities for conducting Traditional Land-based youth leadership camps or March break activities for youth. In February, we are offering a ukulele music workshop for youth (12-17) ages via zoom and along with a 2-day virtual family gathering as well. With this YCC fund, we are also supporting our youth executive council to conduct a pen pal program to develop ongoing communication through letters with an elder and youth.

JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE

Jordan's Principle is an order to the Canadian government to ensure that all First Nations Children have equal access to products, services and supports as needed.

Grand Council Treaty #3 Jordan's Principle has been working diligently with our children and families to ensure their needs are being met.

Since COVID-19 and the restrictions it brings, Treaty #3 Jordan's Principle has seen a rise in applications for families requesting traditional healing and guidance, along with Land base teachings which is providentially being approved. With the rise in applications since COVID -19 begun, hats off to our Treaty #3 community Jordan's Principle navigators.



YOUTH COORDINATOR

The youth coordinator is currently responsible for 3 files which includes:

- Mental health funding for first nation schools
- (youth life promotion)
- Youth cultural camps
- Professional developmental funding

In mental health, we are providing funding for 12 schools in four installments in a year. Have sent 3 installments so far currently waiting for the reports from the school. The fourth installment will be sent by the end of February. The Health Council also planning to conduct mental health conference for students and education staff in coming April via virtual/in person upon the COVID-19 mandate at the time.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL FUNDING

The Health council conducted much professional development training which includes psychological and staff development training. On March 22-26, we will be delivering a virtual buffalo riders train the trainer program with the partnership with Thunder Bay foundation that supports building and strengthening the capacity of first nation communities to deliver culturally-based mental wellness support services to indigenous youth. The second session of the Spark training and psychological training will be in March.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Some of the most frequent questions asked about Jordan's Principle:

- Can I access Jordan's Principle living off reserve? YES, Jordan's Principle is available for all First Nations Children living both on and off reserve.
- Can I get a reimbursement for costs up front? YES, Jordan's Principle will go back as far as 2007 for reimbursements
- Who can I turn to for help with Jordan's Principle? Most Treaty #3 communities have a community JP navigator, if your community does not have one, please contact GCT#3 Jordan's Principle office.

Contact Grand Council Treaty #3 Jordan's Principle if you would like more information.



DEPARTMENT UPDATE

SOCIAL

SOCIAL DEPARTMENT UPDATES

GRAND COUNCIL TREATY #3 SOCIAL DEPARTMENT WORKS WITH THE 28 MEMBER COMMUNITIES TO ADDRESS THE INHERENT RIGHTS AND JURISDICTION OF TREATY #3 FIRST NATIONS IN SOCIAL SERVICES. THE SOCIAL DEPARTMENT ADVOCATES FOR RESPONSIVE AND EFFECTIVE SERVICES IN THESE PORTFOLIOS;

- ABINOOJII INAKONIGEWIN
- HUMAN TRAFFICKING
- SOCIAL ASSISTANCE
- MMWIG AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE
- POVERTY REDUCTION

ABINOOJII INAKONIGEWIN

Abinoojii Inakonigewin is our child care law. Through this law, Treaty #3 exercises its inherent jurisdiction over the care and wellbeing of Anishinaabe children. The implementation of this law has been structured through a 5-year plan, which is slated to complete in 2023. We would like to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of the former contractors, and the ongoing support of Treaty #3 leadership and Ogichidaa, who left a great foundation and path on which we are continuing upon.

GCT#3 Technical working group has been virtually meeting monthly since September, 2020. This working group, comprised of the Social Sustainability Chiefs, Womens Council, elders, community representatives and CFSA's continue to provide valuable guidance and direction in realizing Abinoojii Inakonigewin. GCT#3 staff also continue to meet with and receive support and approvals via the GCT#3 Social Sustainability Chiefs Committee.

CURRENT AREAS OF FOCUS

- Increasing the visibility and awareness of the implementation process. A series of videos are currently being developed to provide Treaty #3 with information on Abinoojii Inakonigewin.
- Ombikiasowin Protectorate structure. GCT#3 contractors and staff are working to create a clear picture, understanding and fulfillment of Ombikiowsowin Protectorate.
- Maintaining meaningful Relationships and partnerships with our Treaty 3 Communities, Federal government, Provincial governments of Ontario and Manitoba, and our Child and Family Service agencies.

GCT#3 continues to provide virtual community information sessions on Abinoojii Inakonigewin. Please contact jordan.bertagnolli@treaty3.ca for questions regarding these sessions.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Social has been working to identify opportunities to expand and improve upon social assistance services for Treaty #3. In 2020, a working group consisting of members from GCT#3, Fort Frances Tribal Area Health Services and Kenora Chief's Advisory started working on a ODSP business case. Treaty #3 has also participated in and led several federal engagement sessions on Income Assistance reform. This work continues into the new year, with guidance from leadership and communities.

MMIWG

The Remembering Our Tribe MMIWG Virtual Gathering is happening February 16th and 17th, with an exciting line-up of speakers. This virtual gathering has been created through the support of the Treaty #3 Women's Executive Council, MMIWG funders and the Treaty #3 MMIWG Worker.



Care packages for Women's Shelters across Treaty #3

The Social Department in partnership with The Indian Residential School Unit put together 110 Self Care Packages to be distributed to the six shelters across Treaty #3 Territory, we also included art supplies, books, and crafts for the children.

We are continuing the advocacy and awareness for MMIWG and offering different virtual classes to survivors, family members and people impacted by the issue of MMIWG.

RED RIBBON CAMPAIGN



The Red Ribbon represents Zahgidiwin (Love), in honor of the Seven Grandfather Teachings and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Wearing the red ribbon signifies your commitment to honour, respect, protect and love the Indigenous Women and Girls in your life and to come together in ending violence against Indigenous Women and Girls.

The Red Ribbon Campaign launched January 25th, 2021, in honour of the Seven Grandfather Teachings and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The campaign is focused on advocacy and aims to initiate conversation, reflection, and action regarding Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

There is growing support across communities in Treaty #3 towards this campaign. To date, Bettys in Fort Frances has created a window display and Mayor Mr. Wilson have shown their support. This campaign will continue for the month of February.



LEFT: Red Ribbon Campaign display, Betty's Fort Frances
RIGHT: Delivering Red Ribbons to Mayor Wilson, Dryden



DEPARTMENT UPDATE

EDUCATION

Mizhakiwetung Memorial School
Photo credit: Monique McDonald



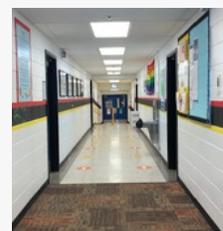
TREATY #3 EDUCATION UPDATES

INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) is working on its Transformation of Education process that has changed how First Nations are funded for education. In previous years, First Nation schools received funds based on nominal roll with a few proposal based programs such as New Paths for Education, First Nation Student Success Program and Education Partnerships Program that provided funds for specific purposes. Under the new Interim Funding Approach, the proposal based funds have been re-profiled into the core funding for First Nations education and distributed based on the nominal roll. First Nations will continue to improve programming in accordance to their new budgets.

REGIONAL EDUCATION AGREEMENTS

The next phase of the transformation process is the opportunity to develop Regional Education Agreements with ISC that includes redefining the funding agreements. Grand Council Treaty #3 has prepared a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking consultants to conduct the required activities. An information session will be hosted, participating First Nations will collaborate on the development of a Treaty #3 needs-based funding formula, and draft Regional Education Agreement. A final reporting session will provide an opportunity for feedback and approvals by Treaty #3 First Nations.



Kiizhik & Mizhakiwetung school corridors



- Indigenous Services Canada
- Regional Education Agreements
- Federal Bi-Lateral Agreement
- Salary Grids
- Education Partnerships Program
- First Nation Inuit Youth Employment Strategy
- Safe Schools Training
- Future & Past Events

Wisdom, Love, Respect, Courage, Honesty, Humility, Truth

EDUCATION UPDATES:

FEDERAL BI-LATERAL AGREEMENT

Treaty #3 leadership is working on a direct bilateral federal agreement for education. The education department will provide updates to Treaty #3 First Nations and work with the Treaty #3 Education Committee to support the process.

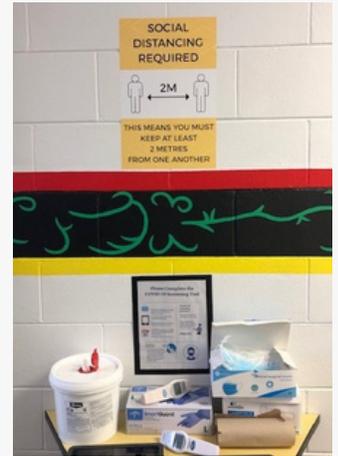
SALARY GRIDS

The education department is working with consultants on the development of a Treaty #3 Salary Grid for Education.

This initiative will require information from Treaty # First Nations to analyze existing salary grids, identify current salary expectations, and assess the capacity of First Nations to implement the recommended salary grid based on the actual budgets. The proposed salary grid will be presented to the Treaty #3 Education Committee for review and feedback.

EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM (EPP) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

As of January, 2021, the EPP tripartite MOU between GCT3, the Ministry of Education and ISC, was approved and submitted for final signage. 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 or all students in the Treaty #3 territory. A total of 17 communities have signed on in support. There will be a virtual signing ceremony following the actual signing of the document and hopefully an in-person signing by this summer. Traditional feasting of the document will also take place at this time.



Reducing the spread of COVID-19 preventative measure signs at First Nation schools

FIRST NATION INUIT YOUTH EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY | 2021-2022

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

This past year, Grand Council Treaty #3 Education Department hired students through Treaty 3 First Nations and have collaborated directly with Treaty #3 communities Education Directors in assisting students gain employment skills in work placements with their First Nations education sectors at their schools as well as assisting other students in continuing their studies.

This new coming fiscal year, we are anticipating to have employment opportunities for summer students and mentored work placements by June-July 2021.

Keep a look out for future postings on these exciting opportunities made for youth who are returning to school or post-secondary.



FUTURE & PAST EVENTS:

UPCOMING: TREATY #3 VIRTUAL YOUTH CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

On March 25 & 26, our education department is hosting a virtual conference for youth with a focus on science and technology. Guest speakers confirmed to date are Kona Williams- Canada's First - First Nations female Forensic Pathologist, University of Manitoba's Faculty of Science Wawatay program, Amber Fedus- Masters of Science student in biology, and Wilfred Buck-Traditional Astronomy teacher from The Pas, MB, just to name a few.

We are working on confirming additional speakers and will post more information once confirmed.

LEGENDS AND STORYTELLING

In keeping with the seasons and sharing our traditional knowledge, we are encouraging our Treaty #3 members to share their favorite legends and let us know how they are passing them on. The video submissions will be collected and shared with our schools for future reference.

We would like to acknowledge Elder Agnes Kabatay from Mitaanjigamiing for assisting us with a traditional ceremony to open and close this event in a good way. The original call for submissions is now open to all Treaty #3 members with the deadline extended to Friday, February 12, 2021.



Dr. Kona Williams (Image above)
Photo Credit Rick Madonik
Getty Images



Wilfred Buck (Image above)
MFNERC Inc. homepage

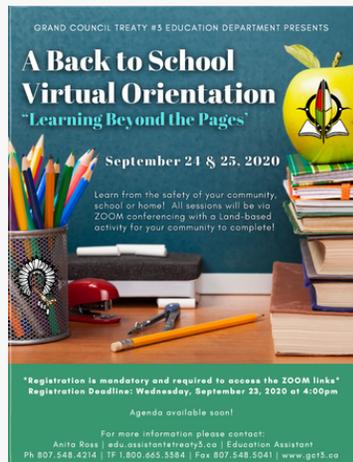
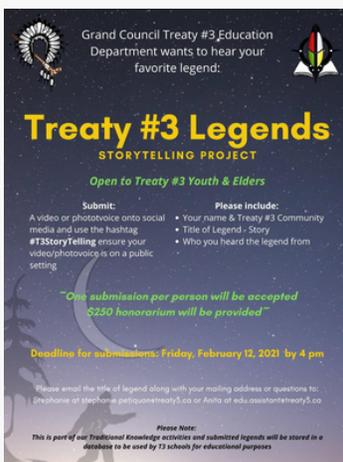
SAFE SCHOOLS TRAINING

The Safe Schools Training is the leading web-based staff and student training and compliance management system specifically designed for schools. Voted one of the Top 100 products in education 7 years in a row, thousands of school organizations across North America use the program to simplify their training administration.

This comprehensive employee course library includes hundreds of courses covering the following categories; Emergency Management, Human Resources, Social & Behavioural, Employment Practices, Information Technology, Special Education, Environmental, Health, Nutrition Services, Transportation, and Security. This program was purchased for our Treaty #3 Education Committee to be used and customized within their communities as they see fit and to consider what training needs are the utmost importance for their staff.

BACK TO SCHOOL VIRTUAL ORIENTATION

This year, the first T3 Back to School Virtual Education Orientation Learning Beyond the Pages' occurred on September 24 and 25 via ZOOM. Topics of discussion included Parenting in a Pandemic, Project-based learning, admin planning and strategic tips, digital storytelling, Safe School Program, Traditional Self-care, and land-based ECO and RISK assessments overview and outside activities. We hope to further build on the success of this conference by making it an annual affair.





DEPARTMENT UPDATE

ECONOMIC - TREATY #3 INVESTMENT GROUP

TREATY #3 INVESTMENT GROUP ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT UPDATE



GRAND COUNCIL TREATY #3
INVESTMENT GROUP

Ogichidaa Francis Kavanaugh met with Minister Marc Miller, Indigenous Services Canada; Anne Scotton, Regional Director General (RDG) – Ontario; and Garry Best, Regional Executive Director, FNIHB on December 04, 2020 to discuss a number of items including C.J. Property and Housing;

C.J. PROPERTY UPDATE

Ogichidaa Kavanaugh and Chief Derek Henderson, Sagkeeng First Nation and Chair of the Economic Chiefs Committee spoke to the following items with respect to C.J. Property;

- a. That Indigenous Services Canada assign a Property Manager to the site and work with Grand Council Treaty #3 on all issues affecting the property.
- b. There still needs to be an environmental assessment of the site; we hope this will commence in spring of 2021.
- c. Request to fast track the Additions to Reserve process with respect to the process. No community in Treaty #3 wishes to see this site held up in that process which has been known to take a decade or more to complete.

We are currently developing a trust agreement utilizing the Four Direction Governance Model whereby four (4) representatives will be selected by leadership to act as trustees on behalf of the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty #3. One representative will be selected from each direction.

**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**





HOUSING UPDATE

Ogichidaa Kavanaugh notified Minister Miller of Grand Council Treaty #3 Housing resolution CA-20-35 passed at the Chiefs-in-Assembly meeting in Couchiching in August 2020 to support a Treaty #3 led process to address Housing within the Nation.

Anne Scotton, RDG said she was supportive of Treaty #3's position with respect to Housing and we have submitted a Housing proposal which includes a work plan and budget to begin the process of engagement with First Nations in the area. The goal of the work plan and budget is to provide Grand Council Treaty #3 through the engagement process, recommendations and an approach to addressing Housing and Homelessness within the Nation. This work includes the following key areas;

- Completion of an evaluation of current inventory within First Nations in Treaty #3.
- Conduct a thorough engagement process with respect to care and control of Housing.
- Address issue of homelessness in Treaty #3 and formulate strategy moving forward.
- Complete business case and financial management plan to address Housing in Treaty #3.

Homelessness is a critical issue within Grand Council Treaty #3 and it affects all sectors of our population and raises issues from the legacy of Indian Residential Schools and colonialism that impacts health, social and economic factors that contribute to higher rates of homelessness in our area. We need to have a discussion about homelessness that includes engaging with youth, women, elders, men and leadership, plus service agencies operating within Grand Council Treaty #3 to develop a coordinated approach to homelessness in our region.

It is our intent to work with all community partners to establish a Housing and homelessness strategy within the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty #3. The existing partners include; Pwi-Di-Goo-Zing Ne-Yaa-Zhing Advisory Services, Anishinaabeg of Kabapikotawangag Resource Council, and Bimose Tribal Council, and other agencies. It is anticipated that there will be additional funding to support capital, governance and administration in future years.



GRAND COUNCIL TREATY #3 - TERRITORIAL INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

The GCT3-TIC project is in the final steps of application to the current provincial and federal broadband funds for the funding to provide fibre internet into all Treaty #3 communities that want it.

The GCT3-TIC project is a collaborative effort of the Treaty #3 Social and Economic Chiefs Committees.

Twenty-three Grand Council Treaty #3 communities have signed letters of support with intent to participate in the submission to the Universal Broadband Fund (UBF) application. Two communities already have fibre internet to their communities (Mitaanjigamiing, Lac Seul) and Nigigoonsiminikaaning is currently in the process of installation of the upgrade.

GCT3 is partnered with Bell Canada to build and update the necessary telecommunications infrastructure for the project. We have also partnered with a number of rural and remote non-Indigenous communities in Treaty #3 Territory to increase the number of households that will be connected and improve the viability of the project.

If our funding applications are successful – we should know by early summer – the build will begin late this year and take an estimated 2-3 years to complete. The goal is to connect community buildings and households in all participating communities to high speed, broadband, fibre-fed internet.

As the project moves ahead the leadership of the Economic Chiefs Committee has emphasized the need to support and guide potential economic development opportunities in communities, so they are able to take advantage of the improved connectivity. As part of this process, the importance of developing positive relationships with external sources including municipal government will serve to ensure that projects of this magnitude are properly funded and to ensure that Treaty #3 citizens have the available technology to increase growth in multiple sectors including economic development and commerce.

Miigwech!

Gary Allen
Senior Political Advisor
CEO, Treaty #3 Investment Group



DEPARTMENT UPDATE

TERRITORIAL PLANNING UNIT

TERRITORIAL PLANNING UNIT DEPARTMENT UPDATE

MANITO AKI INAKONIGAAWIN

The Outreach Coordinator is currently in the process of conducting Manito Aki Inakonigaawin and Nibi elder and knowledge keeper interviews. First we are conducting them with Grand Council Treaty #3 staff to create a good foundation, then will be conducting them with community members in the next few months. The knowledge gained from these interviews will support both MAI and Nibi law revitalization and operationalization.

The draft Manito Aki Inakonigaawin toolkit is continuing to be a living document and is open to additions daily. We will be bringing the draft MAI toolkit to the Environmental Chiefs for their input, then we will be bringing it to all Chiefs not long after. Following this, we will have a webinar or conference (pending COVID-19 restrictions) to talk about MAI in all of our communities. We also hope to have a naming ceremony for the "toolkit" to change it from the word "toolkit" to a name more suitable to the deep meaning of Manito Aki Inakonigaawin.

Working with elders and knowledge keepers, the Outreach Coordinator is currently in the process of creating various MAI educational resources ranging from MAI processes, MAI orientation, and an MAI children's book.

All of this work is at the beginning stages and we continue to communicate with elders and knowledge keepers to do this work in a good way while following protocol. If you would like to be a part of any of this, or have questions/comments please contact the Outreach Coordinator, Hailey Krolyk at hailey.krolyk@treaty3.ca

ANISHINAABE WELLNESS HEALING CENTRE

Ogichidaa Francis Kavanaugh, Treaty #3 Communities and various Organizations are in support of an Anishinaabe Wellness Healing Centre for men, women, and youth that desire to start their healing journey. This is an initiative being led by Treaty #3 Elders in which Grand Council Treaty #3 is in support of. The Wellness Centre will provide traditional and culturally appropriate services to gain mino-bimaadiziwin (good way of life). Treaty #3 Elder Landford Ogemah states the wellness centre would function traditionally through ceremonies led by healers and elders and living off the land. The location of the Wellness Centre will be located at Bug Lake, off Highway 71.

Zhaagimaa Waabo



The Territorial Planning Unit currently has two openings posted on the GCT3 webpage.

- Treaty #3 Youth internship opportunity working on MAI
- Emergency Management Planning Assistant

More opportunities to join the Territorial Planning Unit are forthcoming, please watch our facebook page for all the opportunities!

Find us on
Facebook

GRAND COUNCIL TREATY 3
TERRITORIAL PLANNING UNIT

COMMUNITY BASED MONITORING

The TPU's Community Based Monitoring program will be expanding its focus this summer to identify habitat for priority fish species and collect baseline habitat data at each identified area. The TPU will work with Elders and other knowledge holders from each community to identify traditionally important habitat areas for fish species like Walleye, Muskellunge, etc., and then work with community members to collect baseline scientific data (water quality, water level, vegetation presence, etc.) and traditional knowledge from each of the identified habitats. To learn more about the CBM program and how to participate in it please contact Chris Herc at environment.monitor@treaty3.ca

NWMO ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

The Territorial Planning Unit has continued engagement on the NWMO file through the fulfillment of an RFP and partnership with Narratives Inc. We will be creating Nuclear related educational tools and starting technical working group sessions in March. Please watch our notices to join in on these sessions!

The TPU has also engaged with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and Canada Nuclear Safety Commission in order to discuss the NWMO project overall the the regulatory process that would be come forward pending the completion of the site selection process in 2023. These conversations are the preliminary steps in developing a process to implement a Treaty #3 Environmental Assessment or Project Assessment Process.



TREATY #3 NIBI PORTAL

In partnership between the Territorial Planning Unit and Decolonizing, the Treaty #3 Nibi Portal is undergoing planning for development. In January 2021 a partnership with CE Strategies was formed in order to develop the portal. The Project team will be meeting at milestones to work with the Treaty #3 Women's Council on the design and development of the portal. The portal will be a online resource to learn and share in relation to Nibi in Treaty #3. The portal will feature the Nibi Declaration, video and audio recordings to share Treaty #3 Nibi Inakonigewin and Teachings.

EMERGENCY SERVICES AND RESOURCES

The following matrix highlights the flow of emergency services and resources, available to communities throughout the Nation. The Emergency Management Coordinators within Treaty #3 are available to assist communities in the following areas. For more information, or to reach out for support please contact: Greg Allan (Fort Frances and Area) 807-275-7230 or Monika Huminuk, (Kenora and Area) 807-464-4616 and for members of Bimose please reach out to Jordon Benoit 807-407-3006.



CLIMATE CHANGE

The Climate Change programs in the Territorial Planning Unit are as follows: Treaty #3 Emissions Reductions Project, Building Regional Adaptation Capacity and Expertise, Climate Vulnerability Assessment Surveys, Youth Climate Strategy Development Team project. The Youth Climate Strategy Development Team in Naotkamegwanning has completed their strategy. While COVID restrictions limited their in person meetings they completed their strategy via zoom. The youth have based their strategy around the following pillars of focus: Education and Awareness, Spirituality, Health of Community, and Infrastructure. The youth have done a phenomenal job in the documenting of traditional knowledge, mapping assets in community, and mapping spiritual lands in community that need protection from the effects of Climate Change.

While COVID restrictions have temporarily halted activity and community visits the projects have been extended until March 2022. If you're community is interested in participating please contact Geneva at Geneva.kejick@treaty3.ca.

TRAPPING AND WILDLIFE

Trapping - Throughout history, people have trapped animals for furs, meat and other valuable products, as well as to protect property and human safety. It is only in recent years that trapping has been used for the added purposes of conservation, environmental protection and for maintaining diversity. Trapping for food remains an important economic and cultural activity, especially in remote communities. In most developed countries including Canada, human-wildlife conflict is increasing. This is leading to a growing need for wildlife control in both urban and rural areas. Trapping is an important tool used for this purpose. Modern trapping respects animal welfare and is often the most practical option for capturing wild animals. Trapping is a significant economic generator to Canada's economy. The most prevalent species trapped for fur is the muskrat followed by the beaver. Fur trapping occurs in every province and territory, Quebec is the leading fur trapping province, followed by Ontario.

Fur Prices - Production of pelts have been decreasing for a while, the prices begin to go up. If prices go up the supply goes up as well. If the same pattern repeats, prices will begin to increase again in 2021. The effects of Covid-19 may impact the curve.

Our department continues to advocate for the Trappers of Treaty #3 and to continue to protect, preserve and enhance Treaty and Aboriginal rights for the Nation as a whole.

Please contact dave.lindsay@treaty3.ca or tammy.gailis@treaty3.ca with any questions

TRAPLINE TRANSFER POLICY

On December 7, 2020, Ogichidaa Kavanuagh addressed a letter to Minister Yakubuski of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, as the MNRF continued to attempt to move forward on the engagement pertaining to the Trapline Transfer Policy. The letter expressed concern over the policy and the continued engagement through the face of the pandemic citing that virtual interactions do not replace in person meetings and therefore the fulfillment of the duty to consult the crown has a responsibility to with the Anishinaabe Nation of Treaty #3. Therefore, requesting that the engagement be delayed the continuance of the policy changes be delayed until a time where we can meet to discuss in person. On January 28, 2021, Minister Yakubuski responded in a letter outlining the understanding of the concerns brought forward by Treaty #3 and that the MNRF have continued to have conversations with First Nations and Metis communities. The letter stated that MNRF would be in touch with Grand Council Treaty #3 in order to create additional opportunities for meaningful conversations between each side.

WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE

Hydro One has submitted their Terms of Reference to the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) for the Waasigan Transmission Line, between Thunder Bay to Atikokan, and then up to Dryden. If approved, this will frame the how the province will conduct the Environmental Assessment.

As reported in earlier newsletters, besides the Territorial Planning Unit (TPU) submitting our second set of comments (November 30th) to Hydro One to reflect our position on their intended Terms of Reference that will ultimately frame the Environmental Assessment, we continue to support the Gwayakocchigewin Limited Partnership (GLP) and it's seven member communities as the lead for this Project. They identify a strong emphasis on archaeological studies coupled with Traditional Knowledge/Traditional Land Use Studies as integral to the route to be chosen. Meaningful engagement with the communities to ensure our jurisdictional rights is also an absolute requirement prior to moving forward, as is clarification on a number of collective community concerns.

The TPU continues to be interested in meeting with communities to address the progress of this Project as well as past grievances, but recognizes the necessity to put this on hold until the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted in the territory.

Once again, the TPU stresses the importance of 'Manito Aki Inakonigaawin', as it provides essential guidance in how we protect the people, the land, and 'all our relations', as well as how we engage with each other to ensure the best outcomes possible for all our communities. Links to materials related to the project and timelines can be found on our website and Facebook page. Any questions can be directed to Michelle Shephard, Regulatory Specialist at (204) 898-4848 or Michelle.Shephard@treaty3.ca.





In Honour
Of

All The
Children

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS (IRS)
INDIAN DAY SCHOOLS (IDS)

IRS AND IDS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

The Indian Residential School Program of GCT# 3 has been extended and will continue to for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. The IRS/IDS team will continue to provide health and cultural support for claimants and their families who attended an Indian Residential School that is recognized under the 2007 Indian Residential School Agreement. The client demand for support and services remains high. We now have an IDS support worker in the team to assist with the demand of applicants that need assistance.

The IRS team continues to provide mental health support to the people impacted by the IRS legacy, Indian Day School experiences and MMIWG by phone or email and Zoom meetings. We also provided iPads to the Wellness workers and health directors to assist IDS survivors to contact one of the RHSW/IDS workers.

The staff continue to provide emergency care packages (groceries), masks and sanitizers and gift certificates as well as continue to assist the Lodge Keepers in the communities in repairing their Sweat Lodges and other needed materials like a wood stove and wood.

The staff provided and donated winter items to the homeless through urban centers that live in Kenora, Fort Frances, Red Lake and Sioux Lookout.

The IRS staff created an IDS video, Clan systems which is in the works and also provided a "Play" for FN communities and Indian Day School information video in Anishnabemowin. We will provide the links in this newsletter.

Day School documentary with Danielle Morriseau and Don Kelly.
<https://youtu.be/o312wmk4EsM>

Me ne go ze yin Play directed by Joyce White

This play was performed with social distancing. It is based on teachings specifically related to teachings of Vision Quest for boys, and Moon time teachings for girls.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QSjUYr_Nnc6jkwysE4Jb_aWS-EzuyIhP?usp=sharing



So what does it mean to be a survivor

It means ...

Knowing you are not alone.

Reclaiming a sense of control over your life.

No longer living with fear, shame, and guilt.

Actually being able to sleep peacefully at night.

Living with a sense of purpose that you may have never had before.

Having a second chance at life.

Refusing to feel guilty for surviving and living.

Understanding it's okay to admit it when you're not okay.

Accepting and valuing your perfectly imperfect self.

Telling your story to help others going through the same thing.

Accepting that sometimes there simply are no answers for why someone does the things they do.

Developing coping mechanisms you can count on.

Knowing you will do whatever it takes to protect yourself and your children.

The opportunity to create an entirely new story for yourself.

Learning the importance of loving yourself, and that it's a lifelong endeavor.

Written by Marquita Herald

The IRS-HSP continue to be a supportive role for survivor's that are dealing emotional and past trauma with the following Class Action process.

1) Indian Day School Class Action Agreement:

Further information can obtain with the following website of Indian Day School Class Action. Toll free number 1-844-539-3815 or link dayschools@gowling.com (this Class Action is still ongoing).

2) Indian Day School survivors:

Still processing with a court date coming in the year of 2021, Further Information to this matter can be viewed the website of "Indian Day Scholars Action Class Action". Contact telephone Number 1-250-828-9788.

3) Sixty Scoop Class Action Agreement:

All applications have been submitted and review each of claim submission with some payments to each request. For further information please review the website up-date online : www.sixtyscoop.com or sitiesscoop@collectiva.ca toll free number 1-844-287-4270. (this class action is still on-going).

4) Federal Run Indian Hospital is still in process with the courts: and again the website of this Class Action can be review its up-dates and the list of institution that treated our FN IRS members of Tuberculosis illness case. The class-action lawsuit has not yet been certified and the federal government has yet to file a statement of defence.

5) Provincial Run Indian Hospital (no Class action in process due to no law firm to take on the Tuberculosis CASE).

Congratulations to the winners of the IRS jigging contest. The videos can be viewed on the link provided. Thank you for participating.

Brenda Morrison and her grand children Honor, Kingsley and Sage

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/aRzSuoJ9bGRNtpkY6>

Bev Paypompee

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/aRzSuoJ9bGRNtpkY6>



There aren't many times when you can truly say you had a perfect day, but go fishing and you'll probably have one. Your body will love you for it. Healing process...healing journey..this is one of the ways we can self care.

STORY TELLING

As the Anishinaabe have done for centuries, wiisokotaatiwin is where the leaders and elders would smoke their peace pipes and offer prayers and food offerings, so that good life would be granted, and so we too do the same as we were taught. Knowledge is not to be kept, but shared and passed on to the young, whomever that may be. This means that we do not discriminate regardless of color or creed, and that no one, is above or omitted from this gift of sharing, and love and the teachings we learn from our elders, are not meant to be kept, but rather to be given away freely, for we as Anishinaabe must always remember, our lives were given to us freely, by the creator, and for that, we give our asemaa, and ask only for life and goodwill to all and say miigwech to the Creator.

The IRS team is providing Moon Lodge gift packages to communities consisting of abalone shells, sage and broadcloth to be used in full moon ceremonies. We will also be providing cedar to urban centers for medicinal use to help vulnerable people protect against the effects of covid-19. In Spring, our team will be erecting IRS flags at the following sites: Cecelia Jeffrey, Macintosh, St. Mary's and St. Margaret's Residential school sites. Each year a gathering takes place consisting of Regional and Cultural Health workers, but because of covid-19 restrictions we had a Virtual Zoom meeting instead which turned out to be a great success.

Poozhoo miinawa. I trust everyone here in the Treaty 3 area is in good health and spirits. We have come such a long way, since this pandemic and I believe all will continue to do the right thing by wearing your masks and social distancing.



DEPARTMENT UPDATE

KAKEWAASEYA JUSTICE SERVICES



KAKEWAASEYA JUSTICE SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE



JUSTICE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As we reflect on the past year, a year of exceptional and earth-shattering changes related to a growing global pandemic. I believe that we have many reasons to have immense pride in our ability to adapt and work together during the unprecedented challenges posed by COVID-19. Now that this challenging and historic year comes to a close. I sincerely can say "thank you" to our staff at Kaakewaaseya Justice Services.

Moving forward, the Justice Department continues to work in partnership with the Treaty 3 Chiefs, Ministry of Attorney General Indigenous Justice Division, MCCSS Youth Justice Division, and the Department of Justice Canada. Together we appreciate the staff's continued commitment to fulfilling their part to meet GCT3 clients' legal and mental well-being.

All programs continue to work remotely; all existing court matters are remanded until later dates. Courts are virtually operating - in writing, or by telephone or video conference court, releasing non-violent inmates to Bail Programs, and remanding or providing bail conditions with new cases. GCT#3 client needs are being dealt with via phone, email and social media.

See Ontario Court of Justice for essential updates on **Message re COVID-19** (Updated January 13, 2021) at www.ontariocourts.ca/ocj/

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

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





DEPARTMENT UPDATES

COURT REOPENING COMMITTEE

Working with Court services and NAN legal with a pilot project to bring back advance court days to review the dockets before court days to enhance alternative measures. This project will be taking place in Lac Seul and Kasabonika.

NORTH WESTERN POLICING COMMITTEE

In partnership with the Indigenous Justice Division at the Ministry of the Attorney General, GCT#3 Justice, Nishinawbe Aski Legal Services, Treaty Three Police, Nishinawbe Aski Police Services, and the Ontario Provincial, Dryden and Thunder Bay Police. We will be working in partnership to further the process of Restorative Justice principles in the Northwest and the process for pre-charge referrals.

CULTURAL CHIEFS MEETING

January 28, Justice, TARR and IRS met with Cultural Chiefs by virtual meeting to provide program updates. Our Chiefs continue to deliver positive and meaningful guidance on the initiatives each program works to make a positive difference in our people's lives.

COMPREHENSIVE ONTARIO POLICE SERVICES ACT, 2019' BILL 68

In February, leadership met with COO to discuss Justice issues regarding UNDRIP and the engagement with the Community Safety and Policing Act.

OPP INDIGENOUS ADVISORY CIRCLE

On January 29th met to discuss best practices and protocols for the Advisory Circle.

FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Cultural Chiefs and Justice department in partnership with Nishinawbe Aski Legal and Aboriginal Legal Services Toronto - to look at the movement of self-administration of Justice on reserve. A resolution was presented at COO regarding self-governance and Justice transformation for First Nations, written and moved by John Bilton and seconded by Chief Waylon Scott.



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CENTER

First Advisory Committee meeting held Nov. 30th, chaired by Dyna Aaron and Janine Seymour. Policy approval, engagement approach and timelines discussed.

The MAG architects also had a presentation regarding the steps for capital funding steps that were needed to have approved funding. Also, some examples of Justice center buildings in Canada and the USA. Small planning group circle meetings and notification is to follow from Janine.

The Jan 26th meeting with a strategic planning session with Janine, KCA, and GCT#3: We would like to see how the Justice Center will run in partnership with the Ministry of Attorney general's office.

SPOTLIGHT: GLADUE WRITING SERVICES

MESSAGE FROM GLADUE SERVICES BEVERLY WILLIAMSON (TEAM LEAD)

Boozhoo! I am sending healing prayers to all in our Treaty #3 Territory during this COVID-19 pandemic! It seems this is the time to keep our loved ones close, washing our hands and wearing our masks!

GLADUE SERVICES AT GCT3

In 2015-2016, two Gladue Writers completed Gladue Reports for the Treaty #3 Territory. We were extremely busy and writing three Gladue Reports at a time. Furthermore, we also had ten requests or even more on a waitlist. We were writing machines!

In 2017-2018, Kaakewaaseya Justice Services obtained further funding to hire two more Gladue Writers. This was a blessing! This extremely helped our Writer Program, but still, we are writing three Gladue Reports at any given time! Our waitlist is now manageable....whew! We are still writing machines!

As the Lead Gladue Writer with three writers that I mentor, it still keeps me very busy! I also write to help our Anishinaabeg in the criminal justice system. During this pandemic, the Writers have been working from home. The Gladue Writers still network with justice personnel and community workers for assistance on a Gladue Report.

Gladue Writers also set up meetings with their new clients by telephone to start a Gladue process. Often at times, the Gladue process has slowed down considerably because of the pandemic. As a result, many of our clients are difficult to contact for lack of telephone or cell phone services. Internet services are at a minimum in contacting the band office to leave messages (we understand that offices are closed for safety measures!). Or generally not returning the call (we understand there are valid reasons, too!).

The Gladue Writers have written reports on behalf of our Anishinaabe, who have pled guilty to various charges of assault, domestic violence, alcohol, and drug offences. These reports share an individual's life experience: how they cope with life, who raised them if there are addictions if they witnessed/victim of violence. These are some of the details in a report. As a community, what are the historical or societal issues and the relationship the client has with their community?

At the end of our report, we have positive recommendations discussed with the client to rectify the behaviour that caused them to be criminally charged. Some of the outcomes can be a letter of apology, community service, accessing counselling or going to treatment.

The Gladue Writers provide reports for Judges, Justices of the Peace and other quasi-judicial processes (Tribunals). I have explained some of the details of Gladue work. It is demanding yet rewarding to see people change and never go back into the criminal justice system.

I hope you look after your mental health and be kind to yourself during this pandemic. We tend to bite off more than we can chew, and I think this is a time to slow down, read a book, and sip on a hot tea! I am working at a pace that is good for me, and getting outside on a cold day does wonders for me. The cold sure makes you feel alive!

Miigwech, Beverly Williamson

Below is a diagram of Gladue Factors that we, as Writers, take into consideration:

Gladue Factors		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of Land/Territories • Amalgamation of Nations • Loss of Economic base • Loss of Autonomy • Dislocation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of Cultural Practices • Loss of Language • Loss of Culture • Loss of access to ceremonies and healing practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of Governance • Community fragmentation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing shortage • Homelessness • Poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprehension, Foster Care, Adoption, 60s Scoop • Family fragmentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victimization/offenders of violence • Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls • High rates of Incarceration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower education levels, or irrelevance of education • Lower level employment, and/or unemployment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low social determinants of health • FASD/FASE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance mis-use • Suicide • Mental health • Loneliness

* chart from www.gladuesociety.com/gladue-factors

WRITER REFLECTIONS

JENNIFER GROVES (DRYDEN)

"Connecting with people in this line of work is extremely humbling. It always shows a new side to a story and a new path in their healing journey. I have gained a great deal of knowledge working in the Gladue services program and hope to continue to learn more as the years go by."

KAILYN ARCHIBALD (KENORA)

"I feel very honoured to listen and write about my client's life stories. As a Writer, I think one of the most powerful things I've witnessed is clients reconnecting to the traditional way of life. For instance, I have had clients attend healing lodges and seek guidance from elders as they begin their healing journey."

PRISCILLA KREBS (FORT FRANCES)

"One client, I feel very proud of, was a young lady who found herself in a difficult situation. I encouraged her to continue working on herself through counselling and alcohol programs. She has benefited greatly from our help and has shown the Judge she can do things in a positive way to stay out of any further trouble. This job enables me to continue on my own healing and self-discovery journey as well as assisting my clients with their journeys."

More Information on Gladue: www.gladuesociety.com



DEPARTMENT UPDATE

TREATY & ABORIGINAL RIGHTS RESEARCH

TREATY & ABORIGINAL RIGHTS RESEARCH DEPARTMENT UPDATE



INTRODUCTION



Boozhoo Anishinaabeg!

My name is Larry Morrison, Treaty and Aboriginal Rights Research (TARR) Specialist for Grand Council Treaty #3. We are now officially into the last quarter of our fiscal year, and this year has been very challenging to say the least. With the COVID pandemic restrictions basically bringing everything to a standstill, we continue to work diligently with TARR member First Nations to advance claims on our work plan.



HISTORY OF SPECIFIC CLAIMS REFORM

In 1974, after the Calder Decision, Canada created the Office of Native Claims, which took on a dual role as accessing the First Nation claims as well as representing itself in negotiations. First Nations were always critical of this approach, and maintained the view that Canada was in conflict of interest with control over claims negotiations, funding, documentary evidence, as well as excluding First Nations oral testimony.

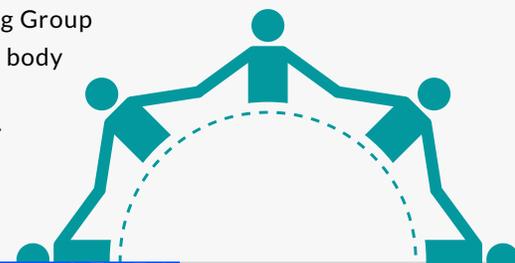
Canada's unilateral control over the claims process has led to repeated calls for justice and reform.

1982 - Canada's Outstanding Business, was intended to outline the specific claims process but did not address the conflict of interest.

1983 - Penner report on Indian Self Government validated that the First Nations concerns that the claims process needed to be replaced with an Independent Claims Body. Never implemented.

1990 - A Joint task force consisting Assembly of First Nations (AFN) - Canada Joint Working Group (JWG) was tasked with reforming a claims process and promises to creating an independent body that could adjudicate claims.

1991 - Indian Claims Commission (ICC) was established to mediate claims that the Minister had rejected. ICC did not have the authority to make binding decisions.



TREATY AND ABORIGINAL RIGHTS RESEARCH

HISTORY OF SPECIFIC CLAIMS REFORM (CONT)

1993 – Joint Working Group recommended establishing an independent process and independent claims body to settle outstanding claims. Canada ignored recommendations.

1996 – Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) released a report calling for a fully independent process to address all First Nation claims. Joint Task Force was created to study a structure of a potential independent claims body.

1998 – Joint Task Force released its final report with recommendations for the creation of an Independent commission for negotiations and adjudicate outstanding disputes where negotiations failed.

2003 - With recommendations from the Joint Report, Bill C-60 Specific Claims Resolution Act received Royal Assent but never proclaimed into law.

2006 – Senate Standing Committee released a final report calling for a truly independent claims body with a two-year timeframe. It also noted that the call for an independent process was called upon and recommended by 18 past government processes.

2007 – Justice at Last: Specific Claims Action Plan (JAL) was announced. Structured around four pillars, independent, binding tribunal, but the department maintained control of the claims negotiation process. The Specific Claims Tribunal Act was viewed as a step towards independence, with a 5-year review which included AFN.

2009 – With the closure of the Indian Claims Commission, and Canada unilaterally converting the ICC to a mediation center. It was also announced that the Specific Claims Branch would administer mediation services. This would result in very little use for the mediation services.

2014 – Canada unilaterally undertook a 5-year review of the Specific Claims Tribunal Act – Mr. Bernard Pelletier as Minister Special Representative (MSR).

2015 – AFN along with First Nations formed an expert panel review (Canada declined an invitation) A report called for the development of a fully independent process. The MSR submitted a final report but refused to make the report public.

2016 – The Office of the Auditor General released a report on the specific claims process. It not only failed to meet the objectives of the Justice at Last, it also included ten recommendations. Canada accepts OAG report and is committed to working with AFN.

2017 – AFN passed Resolution 91/2017, which supports a fully independent Specific Claims Process, calling on Canada to work in equal partnership with First Nations and eliminate the conflict of interest and establish a truly independent specific claims process.

2018 - Canada agreed to mandate the Crown Indigenous Relations to explore what a fully independent specific claims process would look like.

2019 - The dialogue and process was delivered in 2019 by the AFN with support from First Nations technical representatives on the Joint Technical Working Group. Once the drafting of the summary Report is completed, AFN will take the necessary steps to validate and share this Report with First Nations. A final summary Report will be submitted for review and possible acceptance at the AFN Chiefs in Assembly.

LAC SEUL – SOUTHWIND CASE

With the Supreme Court of Canada granting Lac Seul's application to appeal on April 16, 2020. Grand Council Treaty #3 filed for intervener status on September 18, 2020. In October, the Supreme Court of Canada accepted the Grand Council's application to participate as an intervenor in the Southwind appeal. Following that decision, First Peoples Law prepared and filed written legal arguments on behalf of the Grand Council, and coordinated with legal counsel for Lac Seul and other intervenors regarding the appeal. First Peoples Law prepared oral submissions for the Southwind appeal on behalf of the Grand Council. This appeal was heard by the Supreme Court on December 8, 2020. The Court's decision is expected to be released winter/spring 2021. Cultural chiefs will review the decision.

TREATY AND ABORIGINAL RIGHTS RESEARCH

TARR DIGITAL LIBRARY/ARCHIVES PROJECT

Over the years, TARR has accumulated a massive amount of archival documents and the need for organization/digital library has become necessary for the preservation of the TARR collections. TARR has recently contracted Sarah Story, Personal Historian & Archivist from Winnipeg, Manitoba to work with us on this project. Initial consultations began with meeting staff, visual of TARR office space, broad discussions about records created/kept by TARR, some of TARR's challenges and ideas/vision for this project. An official contract was signed in December 2020, and due to covid-19 restrictions, we are unable to conduct onsite visitations at this time. Prioritization of tasks, included zoom calls with our Ethnohistorians and our IT Technician. It was agreed that a practical phased approach will be outlined in the final report, and funding options will be explored to inform planning future steps to consider is additional consultation with Finance, political advisors, external sources such as TARR Manitoba, FNIGC. We need complete more research, analysis, report writing and review. The goal of this project is to have a system that is implementable, sustainable and ensures the protection of not only our archival records but our history as well in ways that respect and ensure Grand Council Treaty #3 data sovereignty.

PICTURES & QUOTES

The Indians will be free as by the past for their hunting and rice harvest. This Treaty will last as long as the sun will shine and the water runs, that is to say forever
- **The Paypom Treaty**



I stand before the face of the Nation and of the Commissioner. I trust there will be no grumbling. The words I have said are the words of the Nation and have not been said in secret but openly so that all could hear and I trust that those who are not present will not find fault with what we are about to do today. And, I trust, what we are about to do today is for the benefit of our Nation as well as for our white brothers - that nothing but friendship may reign between the Nation and our white brothers. And now I take off my glove to give you my hand and sign the Treaty. And now before you all, Indians and whites, let it never be said that this has been done in secret. It is done openly and in the light of day. - **Chief Mawintoopinesse on 3 October 1873**

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 and those who have journeyed on to the spirit world. Our Elders have shared their gifts through ceremony, teachings and mentored us all on how to live a good life.

JOYCE ASSIN | MAY 2, 1961 - FEBRUARY 10, 2021 | ASUBPEESCHOSEEWAGONG
PERCY ADAM HENRY | JULY 8, 1993 - FEBRUARY 8, 2021 | WABASEEMOONG
CLIFFORD GORDON GUIMOND | FEBRUARY 2021 | SAGKEENG
DONNA GAIL PAUL | JULY 1ST, 1966 - JANUARY 23, 2021 | NORTHWEST ANGLE 33
LAVERNA GREENE | DECEMBER 1, 1959 - JANUARY 23, 2021 | ISKATEWIZAAGEGAN 39
GEORGE JOSEPH JIM | JANUARY 20, 1934 - JANUARY 23, 2021 | SEINE RIVER
KERRY CARPENTER | SEPTEMBER 2, 1960 - JANUARY 12, 2021 | WABASEEMOONG
STEVE PAUL JOHNSON | MARCH 12, 1950 - JANUARY 10, 2021 | NAICATCHEWENIN
PIERRE KEITH KABESTRA-PAYPOMPEE | MAY 6, 1988 - JANUARY 2, 2021 | NAOTKAMEGWANNING
TANYA MICHELLE MAINVILLE | MARCH 16, 1973 - DECEMBER 31, 2020 | COUCHICHING
LEO RUDOLPH "RUDY" MORRISSEAU SR. | OCTOBER 22, 1944 - DECEMBER 29, 2020 | COUCHICHING
DANIEL JOSEPH BIGGEORGE | JULY 30, 1954 - DECEMBER 26, 2020
RANDALL MORRISON | DECEMBER 25, 2020 | MISHKOSIMINIZIIBIING
KAYTILYN MARIE BLACK | JULY 27, 1994 - DECEMBER 17, 2020 | NAICATCHEWENIN
CENTRE SKY (CONRAD SPENCE) | FEBRUARY 19, 1937 - DECEMBER 11, 2020 | SAGKEENG
MARY COWLEY "KABUTCHKWE" | MAY 13, 1942 - DECEMBER 8, 2020 | NAOTKAMEGWANNING
ALICIA ALISON ASHOPENACE | AUGUST 29, 1984 - DECEMBER 7, 2020 | ASUBPEESCHOSEEWAGONG
JANET LARSON | FEBRUARY 15, 1949 - DECEMBER 7, 2020 | NAONGASHIING
ALICIA IDA TWOHEART | DECEMBER 5, 2020 | SAGKEENG
PHILLIP PAISHK | MAY 16, 1976 - DECEMBER 5, 2020
JEAN BOMBAY | MAY 15, 1934 - NOVEMBER 30, 2020 | RAINY RIVER
JOHN CHARLES NASH | MAY 26, 1966 - NOVEMBER 20, 2020 | ANIMAKEE WA ZHING 37
CHARLES EDWARD (CHUCK) WINDEGO | OCTOBER 28, 1990 - NOVEMBER 19, 2020 | COUCHICHING
MIRANDA LARAE COURCHENE | JANUARY 10, 1989 - NOVEMBER 19, 2020 | SAGKEENG
HAROLD PETER "HARRY" KLYNE | OCTOBER 5, 1957 - NOVEMBER 13, 2020 | COUCHICHING
GILBERT LEWIS GROVER | APRIL 29, 1958 - NOVEMBER 12, 2020 | RAINY RIVER
WENDY ANN CHEVREFILS | NOVEMBER 9, 2020 | SAGKEENG
PERCY GAUTHIER 'PUNCH' | JANUARY 28, 1957 - NOVEMBER 7, 2020 | NAOTKAMEGWANNING

(October 2020 - February 2021) We apologize in advance if we have accidentally left someone's name off the memorial page.

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 and those who have journeyed on to the spirit world. Our Elders have shared their gifts through ceremony, teachings and mentored us all on how to live a good life.

TERRENCE ASHLEY MCDONALD | MARCH 1, 1975 - NOVEMBER 7, 2020 | WABASEEMOONG

CLIFFORD GIRARD | AUGUST 4, 1963 - NOVEMBER 4, 2020 | SAGKEENG

WESLEY MYLES PAHPASAY | NOVEMBER 24, 1980 - NOVEMBER 2, 2020 | ASUBPEESCHOSEEWAGONG

LAWRENCE KELLY JR. | JULY 1, 1983 - OCTOBER 31, 2020 | ONIGAMING

PATIENCE T LOURDES KIJICK-KIRKNESS | DECEMBER 3, 1999 - OCTOBER 30, 2020 | ASUBPEESCHOSEEWAGONG

ROSIE SNOWBALL | JANUARY 27, 1951 - OCTOBER 29, 2020 | NAICATCHEWENIN

ISAAC HENRY | AUGUST 9, 2000 - OCTOBER 23, 2020 | NIISAACHEWAN

IRENE TAYPAYWAYKEJICK | DECEMBER 17, 1955 - OCTOBER 23, 2020 | ASUBPEESCHOSEEWAGONG

GRACE PAISHK | JUNE 17, 1958 - OCTOBER 23, 2020 | WABASEEMOONG

JOSEPH HAROLD FONTAINE SNR. | SEPTEMBER 4, 1944 - OCTOBER 21, 2020 | ASUBPEESCHOSEEWAGONG

MARINA LOUISE SOLDIER (MORRISSEAU) | JANUARY 04, 1950 - OCTOBER 21, 2020 | SAGKEENG

MARY ROSE COURCHENE | OCTOBER 20, 2020 | SAGKEENG

ALEXANDER JAMES MALLETT | OCTOBER 28, 1960 - OCTOBER 18, 2020 | NORTHWEST ANGLE

(October 2020 - February 2021) We apologize in advance if we have accidentally left someone's name off the memorial page.



*Welcome to all the
newborns who have
come to the Nation!*





GRAND COUNCIL TREATY #3

The GOVERNMENT OF THE ANISHINAABE NATION in Treaty #3



WWW.GCT3.CA



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GRANDCOUNCILTREATY3](https://INSTAGRAM.COM/GRANDCOUNCILTREATY3)

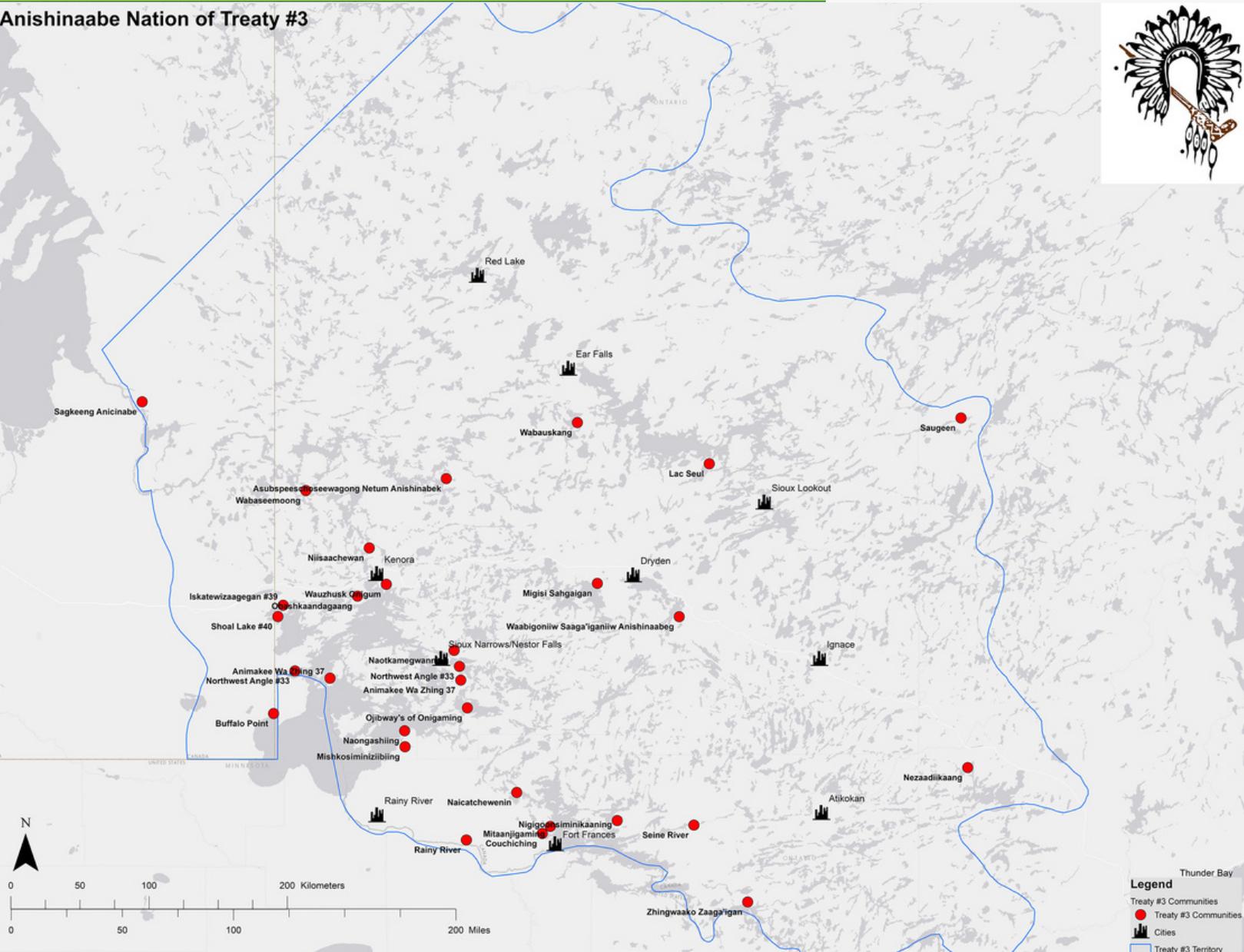


[GRAND COUNCIL TREATY #3](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

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Anishinaabe Nation of Treaty #3



Legend

- Thunder Bay
- Treaty #3 Communities
- Treaty #3 Communities
- Cities
- ▭ Treaty #3 Territory