

SPRING 2025

GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION NEWS



ANISHINAABEMOWIN LANGUAGE champions!



This year, with 226 points earned, our students taking Ojibwe at Marjorie Mills Public School took 2nd place at the third annual Anihinaabemowin Onaagan in Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek (Rocky Bay First Nation). See more education news on pages 8-9.

You did it!

OVERVIEW:

- Message from the Band Manager
- Message from Human Resources Department
- Timber Claim Trust
- Education
- David Charles Traditional Powwow
- Jordan's Principle
- Head Start
- Environmental Guardians
- Choose Life 2025/2026
- Ontario Works
- TLE Update by Wallace McKay
- Lands and Resources
- Indigenous Healthy Babie/Healthy Children
- Message from Housing Manager
- Message from Chief Sheri Taylor and Council
- Update on Making River Bridge
- Band Rep
- Overview of Legal Cases



A message from the Band Manager

Road Project: Enbridge to be in Community last week of May to make sure gas lines at proper depth. Miller to pave middle of June. 4-6 weeks completion

Sub division: Last week of May. EXP to do a Geo Tech survey of land behind Tamarack Street

Internet project: Rapid Lynx doing a survey of the poles to see if internet lines can be attached. Next step to hook up homes by the fall.

Energy project: Retrofit of Band Buildings. Change lighting to LED lights. Starts in the fall
Solar project on Roof Tops of Buildings. Study to start this summer.

4 Pillars: Meeting June 20-21. Discussion on what to prioritize 10-year funding on.

Nomination for Chief and Council: July 12, election August 23.

Basketball Retrofit: Place a sports pad down. New lighting. Starts mid-June

Pow Wow: August 16-17



A message from the Human Resources Department

We are currently working on implementing a new Human Resource Management System. This system will allow all staff and HR to better manage confidential information and held staff track available time.

See next page for some current employment opportunities.



**IF YOU SEE IT
REPORT IT**

1-888-310-1122
1-800-222-TIPS(8477)

"Our communities are suffering at the hands of outsiders taking advantage of our people. We are plagued by drugs, gangs, shootings, overdoses, and violence. Let's not forget that these same people are responsible for taking away young women from our communities for human trafficking. These people prey on us because we have been silenced by our own fears. Police need actionable information."

If you see it, report it.

You will remain anonymous, but your information will not go unheard.*

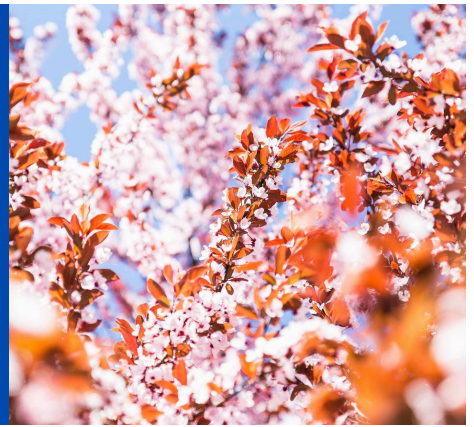
What is actionable information?

DO	DON'T
Call a dispatcher	Call the Band Office
Alert Crime Stoppers	Tell info for a friend
File a police report	Wait too long to call
Provide first hand info	Post on social media

We are hiring!! GFN current hiring needs are below.

- **Ojibway Language Teacher**
- **Community Communications Liaison Officer (Contract Role)**
- **Health Manager**
- **Director Economic Development and Resource Management**
- **Director of Finance**
- **Finance Clerk**
- **Band Rep Services Case Worker**

Visit our web site for more information: www.ginoogamingfn.ca



A message from our Finance Team

GFN's continued development over the past year:

Debt

- The First Nation continues to address its debt with vendors with long-term payment plans to ensure that older payables incurred by previous Chief and Councils are addressed.
- The First Nation has continued to pay down this debt by applying for additional funding dollars and by completing outstanding reporting to recover held funding from funding agencies. The Council and band management are working to further reduce the debt by seeking new funding sources and negotiating with vendors.

Reporting

- The First Nation's audit is up-to-date. We are currently preparing the 2025 audited financial statements.

Capital Projects

The First Nation has a number of capital projects that were recently completed or are in the early stages of development. These include:

- The completion of a feasibility study towards a transition home in the community. The First Nation is working with Architecture 49 to complete the detailed design for the next stage of the project
- The remediation of the First Nation's roads. This project will be continuing in the late spring, early summer
- The purchase of a safe temporary bridge over the former 132 km bridge. Ginoogaming is working with ISC for a permanent, safe replacement
- transition house/recovery centre at 140 Birchcrest
- Youth Hub Project
- Tiny Homes project
- Early development of a new subdivision

Boozhoo Everyone

Hello everyone, I hope everyone is taking advantage of the warmer weather.

It's been a very busy year so far for the Timber Claim Trust. We had an election just recently, to elect two trustees, Michael Charles was re-elected as the off-reserve trustee and Todd Mendowegan was re-elected as the on-reserve trustee. Each will serve for the next 3 years.



Current Trustees:

Term Expires:

Michael Charles Chairperson	April 25, 2028
Todd Mendowegan, Trustee	April 25, 2028
Calvin Taylor Sr, Trustee	April 25, 2026
Maureen Echum, Trustee	July 25, 2027
Brittney Mendowegan, Trustee	July 25, 2027
Etienne Esquega our Legal Trustee.	April 25, 2026
Bryan Hart, Professional Trustee	April 25, 2026

The number of voters who mailed in and or voted in person has increased over the past 4 years. We mail out many envelopes to members for voting and some do come back because the addresses are outdated and/or not correct.

We encourage everyone to send in updated addresses on a regular basis whether it is by mail, email or phone calls.

Education, Bursaries and Awards

We have new applications for new students to attend College and University for the upcoming Summer and Fall Semesters. At present we have 13 active continuing post secondary students and have had awards handed out for various training courses over the past 6 months.

As per the Education Policy; Each full-time post secondary student is entitled to receive up to \$2000.00 for the year based on passing marks. Part-time students are also entitled to receive up to \$1000.00 for the school year based on passing marks and eligible hours of study. Awards are given to anyone completing a training course that they are not being paid for is only entitled an award once a year. Up to a maximum of 2 awards. High school students, grade 8 and JK and Sk graduating are entitled to an award once they provide the certificate for completion and application.

Funding availability is determined on the basis of: Academic merit, Achievement, Financial need: and/or Funding in excess of award and bursary applications.

Congratulations to all the graduates from Ginoogaming First Nation whether it be for High School, College and University. The Timber Claim Trust encourages all members to reach for the stars as Education is the key to advancing any choice you make as a career or improvement to your future and well-being.



Recreation, Sports and Activities

As of January 1, 2025 the Recreation funding provided to support all sports and recreation activities has been increased from \$300 to \$400 for regular sports and from \$400 to \$500 for elite sports and recreation activities. As well the Timber Claim Trust will support anyone who wants to be active to improve their physical and mental health.

Summer Camps and Gym memberships have been increasing over the past 2 years and are encouraged.

Any Team Sports and Recreation is also supported as long as the members are the majority on the roster. All applications will be reviewed and approved accordingly. Status cards of players are to be submitted as well.

Funerals and Headstones

The Timber Claim Trust also supports the costs of sending our loved ones on to continue their journey to the spirit world. Funeral costs up to \$6000.00 is provided to all members registered with Ginoogaming First Nation. Helping to assist with the costs of buying headstones are also a service that is being utilized for the members who have passed. We are having ongoing discussions on increasing the amount provided for Funeral costs from the Trust and partnering with other programs working for the community.

New Employee for the Timber Claim Trust Office.

Please welcome to the Timber Claim Trust Office, Samantha Echum-Legarde who has begun her employment with the Trust since January 6, 2025. Since she began she has been busy with many tasks that needed to be done. She is a proud member of Ginoogaming First Nation who worked previously for the Ginoogaming Head Start and as well in Thunder Bay and attended Confederation College. Sam is young and enthusiastic and has been a great help with the recent election, preparations for the upcoming POW WOW donation letters and Timber Claims annual audit.

Upcoming Events

The Board of Trustees will meet on June 24, 2025 for their regular Quarterly meeting.

The Timber Claim Trust Annual General Assembly will happen in the fall at the Ginoogaming Training Center, which includes that annual meeting with the leaders of the community and the community members who are able to come together to share each other's company and be aware of the changes we are making together with leadership and with membership support.

The Timber Claim Trust is here to provide ongoing support to all members no matter where they live. All applications for business proposals, individual applications for Education, Recreation and/or bursaries and awards are welcome at any time and will be seriously considered based on eligibility criteria.

Please check the Ginoogaming website for any new updates and/or call the office if you have any questions.

Email: timber.claims@ginoogamingfn.ca

Phone: 807 876 1678 or cell at 807 854 8536

Miigwetch !!

Maryann Charles, General Manager for the Ginoogaming First Nation Timber Claim Trust





Boozhoo kina weya! (Hello everyone!)

I hope this message finds you well as we move into the spring season. I wanted to share a few updates and celebrate some of the great things happening in our schools and community.

✨ Honouring Our Graduates

We're very proud of all our students who are graduating this year—from Senior Kindergarten, Grade 8, Grade 12, and Post-Secondary. Graduation is a big step, and it's a time to recognize the hard work, strength, and commitment our students have shown.

 Here are the upcoming graduation dates.

- June 5 – Matawa Post Secondary
- June 10 – Geraldton Composite High School (GCHS)
- June 13 – Notre Dame de Fatima
- June 18 – Marjorie Mills Public School (MMPS)
- June 19 – Our Lady of Fatima
-



We invite all families to come out and support our grads. Let's show our students how proud we are of them and lift them up as they move forward.

Attendance

We'd like to remind everyone how important it is for students to attend school every day. Showing up is a big part of student success. It helps build routine, confidence, and a strong sense of belonging. Coming to school regularly is one way our young people show responsibility. Parents and caregivers, thank you for everything you do to help your children be ready for school. If your family is facing challenges or needs support, we're here to listen and help where we can.

Welcome to Sherry Zatti

We're happy to welcome Sherry Zatti to the Education team! She is our new Student Support Worker for JK to Grade 8. Sherry brings a lot of heart and experience and will be focusing on:

- Helping students attend school regularly
- Supporting mental and emotional well-being
- Making sure all students feel safe, supported, and seen

You'll see Sherry around the schools and at community events. We're grateful to have her with us!

Spring Season

As the land begins to wake up, we encourage everyone to spend time outside. Go to the bush, gather medicines, go for walks, share stories, and speak the language. Our children learn so much from the land and from their families. These teachings are just as important as the ones in the classroom.

Miigwech for your continued support and for walking alongside us on this journey.
Wishing everyone a safe and happy spring.

— Chris Hill
Education Director

DAVID CHARLES TRADITIONAL POWWOW

GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION | AUGUST 15-17, 2025

Sharing our knowledge



Drum Groups:

Ginoogaming Community Drum – Walking Bear

Host Drum – Rolling Thunder Singers (The Location: Ginoogaming Training Centre

Co-Host Drum – HBO Singers (Biigtiigong Nishnaabeg Time: 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Invited Traditional Drum O'zaawegonayaash from (Gakijiwanong)

First 5 registered drums, please call Darcy @807 853 0331 (minimum of 4 singers per drum)

All other drums are welcome

Honorary Elders: Victor Chapais, Wanda Baxter

Head Dancers: Allan Wemigwans, Donna Mendowegan

Spiritual Advisors: Phyllis Shagabuay/Bruce Mendowegan

Princess Pageant/Brave Ginoogaming (Holly Charles: 8078769547 or holly.charles@ginoogamingfn.ca)

M.C. Jimmy Mishquart



For more info

call: 807 356 6504 or 807 876 1660

email:

elizabeth.ferris@ginoogamingfn.ca



GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION

Firewood for all campsites

Campers will receive camper draws, breakfast rations,
bring your own cooking utensils, pots/pans

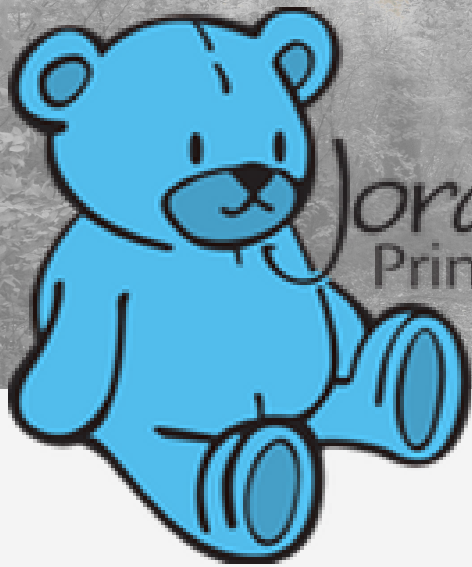
Feast: Saturday

Bagged lunches for travellers only on Sunday

Vendors: Food 200.00 weekend, Crafters 75.00 weekend

Contact: Simone Echum 807 876 1660

Traditional Teachings: August 12-15, 2025 (Agenda to follow)



**Boozhoo, Wachiya to this corner!!
We have had an exciting winter
leading into spring 😊**

There have been many, many individual and group applications that have been submitted to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and more waiting to be completed. There was a considerable back log with ISC but they are slowly getting back on track. New guidelines have been passed down from ISC with new applications. This has been done to ensure the funding is available for many, many years to come.

HERE ARE SOME GROUP APPLICATIONS AND THEIR STATUS:

- Food Supports – STILL WAITING 😞
- Back to School/Winter Wear for students only – APPROVED 😊 This has been a lot of fun for all of us here in Jordan's Principle. We have assisted with on line shopping, shopping in Thunder Bay and here in Longlac.
- Skate Park – IN PROGRESS 😊 This is still being worked on (sometimes projects take while to get off the ground)

AND MANY, MANY MORE TO COME!!!

There was recently a Bear Witness Day and it was a wonderful success. We had a few kids but hope for more to attend events in the near future.

Reminder to all: Jordan's Principle is a reimbursement program. Once the application is submitted it takes time for an approval.

As always, our door is always open (unless in a meeting). PLEASE - Drop in if you have any questions.

Chi-Meegwetch from the Jordan's Principle Team

debbie.charles@ginoogamingfn.ca

laurenn.coaster@ginoogamingfn.ca 807-876-9547 or 807-853-6271 or 807-853-1986

jesse.sharpe-schmid@ginoogamingfn.ca

Ginoogaming Head Start



Hi, I'm Debra Loney, your new Aboriginal Headstart Manager (AHS) since July 2023! I'm still in a learning curve and look forward to developing more into this

Ginoogaming Headstart is a vibrant Indigenous daycare rooted in community, learning, and growth. We provide a nurturing and inclusive space where children are encouraged to explore, play, and develop together. Guided by the values of our culture, we emphasize the importance of helping one another and learning side by side. Our dedicated team supports each child's individual journey while fostering a strong sense of belonging and pride in who they are.

This year, we're especially proud to celebrate a major milestone for six of our little ones who will be starting kindergarten in September. It's been a joy to watch them learn and grow, and we're excited to see them take this big next step. These transitions remind us of the importance of early learning and the foundational role our program plays in shaping the future of our children.

As summer approaches, we're looking forward to launching our School Age Summer Program in July. This program offers a fun and engaging way for older children to stay connected to their peers and community while continuing to learn through play, culture, and exploration.

Please note, Ginoogaming Headstart plans to be closed for a week at the end of July to allow our staff to attend the NAN conference. This gathering is an important opportunity for connection, learning, and advocacy among Indigenous peoples, and we're proud to take part in it. We look forward to returning with new ideas and renewed energy for the months ahead.

Miigwech

Ginoogaming Head Start



Boozhoo, mino giizhigad! (Hello, and good day.) Brittney Mendowegan nidizhinikaaz. I'm proud to serve as the Ojibway Language Teacher here at Aboriginal Head Start. After completing the Matawa Waka Tree – Certificate III in Indigenous Pathways to Speaking the Language – Ojibway Year One, I became the Instructor/Tutor for that same program, which eventually led me to this amazing opportunity to teach our youngest learners.

The language program is in its early stages and focuses on introducing Anishinaabemowin through play-based learning, songs, storytelling, and land-based activities. I've spent time in each classroom building relationships with the children and speaking Ojibway daily through common commands like biishaan, maajan, and bizindan, as well as everyday phrases like mino giizhigad (good day), namadabin (sit), and wiiji'ishin (help me). We also practice numbers, animals, and weather terms.

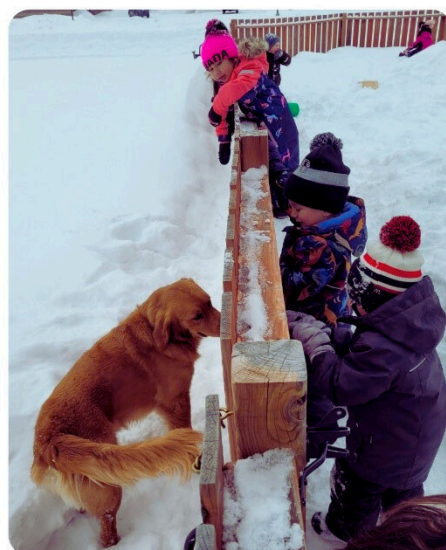
When I'm not in the classroom, I create and translate language resources and work with staff to introduce the Ojibway Roman Orthography chart helping support reading, pronunciation, and overall confidence in using the language.

Our long-term goal is to build toward immersion, provide take-home resources for families, and work closely with community Knowledge Keepers to reflect our local dialect supporting a new generation of proud Anishinaabe speakers.

chi-miigwech Brittney Mendowegan







PIC•COLLAGE



ENVIRONMENTAL GUARDIANS

Hi everyone! My name is Sam Gerrard. I have been working here for a little over a year, and it has been a pleasure so far! My biggest passion in life is animals, and the protection of their homes - the environment. I think it is critical to not only protect our lands for animals, but also for us; connecting with the lands and nature is beneficial for our well-being and healing ourselves. I hope to get more opportunities to connect with the community to work together to protect the beautiful area we all get to call home.

Species at Risk

One of our duties as Environmental Guardians is to monitor wildlife, including Species at Risk. Currently, we have 3 projects regarding the Species at Risk listed below.

Bats

Over the last few years, Four Rivers and Ginoogaming have completed surveys to monitor the bat population around Ginoogaming. We are happy to report that the results from last summer's surveys have come back showing a healthy bat population! We also held Bat Box building events with Choose Life and Geraldton Composite High School. We will be hosting another event this month to install these bat boxes around the community. Those who attended the bat box event will be contacted once the boxes are ready to be installed.

Black Ash

This summer, we will be hosting a community dinner to discuss Black Ash, why it is at risk, and how seed collection can help. This Fall, we will be going out to collect seeds from Black Ash within the area - so if you know of any Black Ash around, your attendance to the dinner is highly encouraged!

We will be monitoring these trees regularly to ensure they do not become infested with Emerald Ash Borers. To find out more, come join us for our Black Ash Dinner - flyers will be handed out to every house at least a week prior to the event, as well as posted on Facebook!

Wolverine

We have just begun a new project to research wolverines in the area. We are looking for reports of any sightings of wolverine at any point in your life in the area - everything from tracks to trapping.

We will be hosting a Wolverine Dinner to collect these sightings and share our planned activities over the course of this project. Flyers will be handed out to every household at least a week prior to the dinner, as well as posted on Facebook!



ENVIRONMENTAL GUARDIANS

Recycling

To assist with recycling collection, we are interested in building attachments on the end of every household's wooden garbage bin located somewhere along your driveway.

They would be built with either plywood or pallets, and will have a hinge lid (similar to how the garbage bins are made). They would then be painted blue. Community members can then place blue bags and cardboard into the new addition on the garbage bins for us to collect!

If you wish to have an addition for recycling built, please contact a member of the Lands team as soon as possible.

Blue bags are also available for members who recycle. Please contact a member of the Lands team if you require more bags.

Boozhoo! For those of you who may know me or have yet to meet me, my name is Janelle. I am a member of the Ginoogaming community and a recent hire as a Guardian Intern at Four Rivers Environmental Services Group. I am excited about this new journey and eager to contribute to the reserve in any way I can, as I have participated in many community events that take place here daily. I will be working closely with both Four Rivers Group and Ginoogaming First Nation to learn about the land, the challenges we face, and how I can help address some of these environmental issues. It's not just Ginoogaming that I will become acquainted with, but also all the Matawa communities, which will allow me to meet many community members and learn about the projects they are currently working on.

I have been actively engaging with Lands & Resources, and I am excited about the activities our reserve has been involved in. Recently, we hosted a TLE (Treaty Land Entitlement) Youth Meeting, and it was wonderful to see so many young people attend to learn about the selection process while enjoying time with our elders and staff members. I will be participating in various upcoming initiatives in our area. I have three promising years ahead of me, during which I plan to learn as much as possible through training, travel, and community engagement for environmental purposes and more!

The mine's opening ceremony began 5 years ago. It has been an uphill journey of employment, training, and overcoming many barriers for members, such as, grade 12, IDs, Driver's Licenses, training certifications, and job retention. We assumed it to be 450 workers, but now it's 610 at Greenstone Goldmine (GGM).

With the new Human Resources Manager, Caroline Frechette, she has been working with a new team of talent to increase the Indigenous workforce. So far, her crew increased Indigenous workforce by 39% and out of that, there are 25 GFN employees. Therefore, in total, we have 142 Indigenous workers, who are self-identified from various First Nations. Local workers are at about 40% and 60% non-local. Women are still at a low percentage, 15% woman and 85% men. HR comes to Ginoogaming training center once a quarter.

Training with Minodahmun Development (MDLP) is still going strong with Heavy Equipment Operator began again early May 2025 including the (3) First Nations, Ginoogaming First Nation, Aroland First Nation, and Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishnawbek. Other trainings include Mine Experience, where job shadowing on the Greenstone Goldmine Site in different departments. The next cohort is in August. All workers had the opportunity to do a job interview with GGM Human Resources.

MDLP has created a new corporation last year, AMIK. This is a partnership between 51% Indigenous-owned MDLP and Cloutier 49%. Together, they are increasing our Indigenous workforce and securing contracts at Greenstone Goldmine. So far, AMIK/Cloutier has about 90 employees. In addition, they are working the earthworks on the Plaza.

Healthy and safety is strong! Based on a million hours of work with all workers, the injuries are at 1.5% rating. The safety checks, reporting, and continuous training are ongoing.

As of April 22, 2025, there are 29 Haul trucks heading up to 36, 4 face shovels, 1 excavator, 1 loader, 6 dozers, 3 graders, 6 production grills, 2 contour drills. Rock and soil pit removes 130-140K tones per day. The goal is to ramp up to 70 million tons per year.

Goldfield Creek washout by the 2023 freshet is now about 30% complete with the redesign. We have consulted our elders and when we have the remaining design, along with local and natural habitat, we will inform the community for engagement. In addition, I work with our GFN Lands and Resources team that support me in meetings with other local FNs as well as the ministries, DFO, MNR for land rehabilitation, remediation and fish offsetting.

Upcoming training, we have G1 and G2, Forestry with our Highschool students including Summer Student programming.

Finally, every month, we have our Cross-Cultural Training at Greenstone Goldmine with the workers, newly hired or if they have been there for a while. We discuss GFN, our way of life, culture, departments, and history. The workers are all grateful to learn about our First Nation, locally. And of course, they are invited to our Annual Powwow.

Crystal Iserhoff, Implementation Coordinator
Email: Crystal.iserhoff@ginoogamingfn.ca
Phone: 807-876-1660

Choose Life 2025/2026

The Choose Life GFN program has been quite busy so far this year. We have hired a few more staff and have put on more activities working along side other GFN Programs. So far this year, we have put on activities during Valentines Day, March Break and Easter. The youth and community love these activities. Throughout the year, we have put on evening activities during the week. These activities are a Youth Drop In, Youth Game Night and A Drum Social. This Spring we have take youth out on the land on excursions. The main activity this Spring was to take the youth out on Fishing trips. They really enjoyed their time out there. We will be continuing with the fishing trips throughout the rest of the Spring and Summer. The youth enjoyed themselves and were more than eager to help out with providing all the fish caught to go towards our annual Spring Gathering that our program will be assisting with again this May 2025.

This Summer, the Choose life GFN will be taking more youth out on the lands to share teachings, and seasonal gathering of traditional foods and medicines. We will be utilizing our equipment, such as boats, quads, side by sides and pontoon. We will also be putting on girls' camps and boys' camps utilizing our Healing Camp. We will also be taking our youth to a few different Pow Wows during the Summer to experience our Culture. We also plan on utilizing out canoes and kayaks to take youth out of mini trips on the water. We have also begun putting on Workshops for Regalia making.

This Fall, the Choose Life GFN team will be putting on more girls and boys' camps out at our Healing camp. We will also be taking the youth out along with Knowledge Keepers and Elders to set up a Fall Moose Hunting Camp. At this camp, the youth will engage with the Knowledge Keepers and Elders to learn about the Traditional Practices of Fall Moose Harvesting. The youth will also engage in the Harvesting of Small Game Animals. We also have a Halloween party for the youth.

During the Winter, we will be continuing with the Regalia and Craft Workshops and also the evening activities, Youth Drop In, Youth Game Night and Drum Social, during the week. As our program expands, more activities will be initiated for our youth. We will also be taking Youth out for Winter Activities such as, Snow Shoeing, Sliding, Rabbit Snaring and Ice Fishing. We also have a Youth Christmas party.

The Choose Life GFN Team consists of:

Darcy Waboose Program Manager
Lisa Echum Choose Life Coordinator
Dallas Fisher Administrator Assistant
Priscilla Fisher Culture Worker
John Echum Mental Health
Donna Mendowegan Youth Worker
Jarome Meshake Youth Worker
Jesse James Gagnon Youth Worker
Sherry Zatti Education Worker





From Ontario Works | Elizabeth Ferris | Apr 2025 - Mar 2026

In addition to the workshops, reporting, meetings and food banks done monthly, Ontario Works has done (or plans to do) the following with the social team (we plan events/activities with them and cost share when needed):

- April 2025 - Community Easter celebration and Easter baskets for children
- April 2025 - Geese hunting with Youth and Elders
- April 2025 - Community event (Puzzle Wars)
- April 2025 - Youth and Elders Conference (Thunder Bay)
- May 5, 2025 - MMIW event (elementary students)
- May 11, 2025 - Mother's Day celebration and brunch
- May 26 - 29, 2025 - Spring Gathering (GFN powwow grounds)
- June 2025 - Graduations for elementary, high school and post secondary students
- June 3 - Aug 30, 2025 - Hiring Ontario Works clients under the Employment Experience Budget
- June 15, 2025 - Father's Day BBQ and games
- June 21, 2025 - Anishinabe Day Celebration
- July 2025 - Planning and preparation for Ginoogaming Traditional Powwow
- Aug 11 - 14, 2025 - Traditional teachings/celebrations
- Aug 26 - 27, 2025 - Back-to-School shopping (Ontario Works clients)
- Sept 1, 2025 - Back to School Celebration
- Oct 13 - 16, 2025 - Fall hunt and celebrations
- Nov 10 - 14, 2025 - National Addictions Awareness Week
- Dec 2025 - Christmas parties for all ages (on and off-reserve)





TLE Update by Wallace McKay, Lead Negotiator

May 26, 2025

The Treaty Land Entitlement negotiations is now into its eight year and unfortunately GFN and it's negotiating team is experiencing frustration by Canada's on-going delay tactics. At the beginning of the process, GFN established excellent working relationships with Canada and Ontario. Since the negotiations commenced Canada has changed its negotiating team completely. In the last year and half or so, Canada has changed its lead negotiators three times. The continual change in Canada's lead negotiators is creating strained relationships that may further frustrate the negotiations.

The on-going changes of Canada's negotiations led to Chief Sheri Taylor's meeting early December with the then Minister of Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs, Hon. Minister Gary Anandasangaree. At that time the Minister made a commitment to a follow-up meeting to be convened the following February 2025. During the same period Wallace McKay, GFN Lead negotiator met with Valerie Gideon, Deputy Minister, along with Stefan Matiation, Director General of Specific Claims Resolution Branch, Canada, at which time the Deputy Minister impressed upon Mr. Matiation for the GFN TLE negotiations to proceed and specifically to work with the agreed upon by parties on the Altus Report.

Shortly after these meetings, the Michael Gauthier, the federal negotiator informed GFN that Canada would be presenting a global offer to GFN within the next six weeks based on the negotiations and the Altus report. Midway through this period, Canada's Lead negotiator informed GFN Lead Negotiator that he was no longer Canada's negotiator on the file. GFN negotiator requested Michael to email the once again change of Canada's negotiator to GFN TLE team. We were informed Leah Williams, Manager of Federal Negotiations, Specific Claims Branch.

When GFN negotiations began, Canada's Lead Negotiator was David Snow, who had previous experience with TLE settlements with other First Nations in Ontario. Then he was abruptly replaced by Michael Guathier a novice negotiator to handle a complex file. Now GFN negotiations team has to contend with a Manager. This is noted in this update so GFN people to realize the intent of Canada is not only to frustrate negotiations but to minimize their compensation for the hundred years failure to fulfill treaty land entitlement. However, the Chief and Council, and the GFN TLE team, along with their negotiations team are committed to withstand all tactics by Canada. The Chief and Council, along with the negotiating team are committed to secure the best settlement possible for the people of Ginoogaming.



TLE Update by Wallace McKay, Lead Negotiator

Then, the federal elections was called and the government bureaucracy went into a caretaker mode; therefore, Canada would not proceed with the negotiations until such time as they get a new mandate from the new government. During the election period, GFN negotiator team tried to engage Canada for parties technical experts to review the technical report where no decisions would be made; however, these technical experts would basically review the report and identify issues to clear up any misinterpretations of the report. This was refused. In the meantime, GFN negotiation team continued with all preparatory work. GFN negotiating team is committed to reach settlement that will be fair and just to the people of Ginoogaming people.

Now that the election is over and the Cabinet has been sworn in, hopefully the delay tactics will ease up. Hon. Gary Anandasangaree, then Minister of CIRNAC is being replaced by Hon. Rebecca Alty is from Northwest Territories, a former mayor of Yellowknife and served as elected member under the Northwest Territories government. Hon. Rebecca Alty will have a better understanding of First Nation issues. A meeting with GFN, Altus technical experts with Canada's team will be meeting in June.

GFN TLE team will be proposing further meetings with Canada's negotiators; however, a meeting with the new Minister Rebecaa Alty will be arranged to follow-up on the meeting commitment made by former Minister of CIRNAC. The meeting with the former Minister was circumvented by unexpected intent to table a global offer to GFN. This global offer was rejected by GFN as it was deemed unworthy of even consideration by GFN. It is important for GFN members to understand Canada is responsible for compensating GFN on Loss of Use and Ontario to return the outstanding 7293 land acres from the treaty. The TLE Negotiation team will be making further updates at the planned community meeting.

As part of this update, there have been questions raised about Relief Payment from the proceeds of the Treaty Land Entitlement. Normally, First Nations that have finalized their Treaty Land Entitlement settlement have distributed a small portion of settlement to community members based on the community decision. The update provides GFN membership of Canada's delay tactics; therefore, the Loss of Use settlement is unknown.

Social media has circulated information about Relief Payments or advance payments from Plow and Cows settlements. Plows and Cows settlements are guaranteed contingent on certain factors; therefore, certain First Nations had collateralized these settlements through loans to provide advance payments. GFN is not in a position to provide any such expenditures on the TLE negotiations.



GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION LANDS & RESOURCES

Treaty 9 Litigation - Kate Kempton

In July 2023, Ginoogaming First Nation and 8 other First Nations, all party to Treaty 9, launched what is likely the most important case in Canada's history in respect of First Nation – Crown relations. The case says that Treaty 9 did not result in the Crown (Canada and Ontario) acquiring the right to take over all governance over what happens to, in and on the lands comprising the vast treaty territory; instead, First Nations were guaranteed that their rights to govern over the lands, or to have “jurisdiction” over the lands, would remain, and be shared with the Crown. What this results in is some form of “co-jurisdiction” where both sets of governments – Indigenous, and Crown – must govern and agree to what happens (and if they don't agree, then a truly neutral international decision maker will decide how to overcome impasses). The case also seeks \$95 billion in damages for all Treaty 9 First Nations, for the harms to this right of jurisdiction, done by the Ontario and Canada governments to date.

A new case management judge has been appointed to help manage the steps of the case before it gets to trial. There will be many: production of all relevant documents; examinations of parties under oath; many motions on interim issues etc.

Ontario has brought a motion against the First Nations to strike out our case, saying there is no law in Canada that can take away the Crown's sovereignty and thus a Canadian court cannot decide this. We say they are wrong about this; that sharing jurisdiction by both sets of governments having sovereignty, can be done and is done elsewhere. It is called pluralist jurisdiction. We are working under the direction of the case management judge to have Ontario's motion narrowed from the broad and improper one it is now, to one that is focused and can be brought at this early stage. Once that happens the motion will get scheduled, and be argued in court in a “mini trial”.

Clearly this case is scaring Ontario a lot and Ontario is fighting back hard. Canada is not as aggressive against us yet.

We will keep you updated on next steps.



GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION LANDS & RESOURCES

Shelly Rahme – Impact Assessment Advisor

There is so much happening within your Ancestral Homelands - the Treaty 9 area. We will be having meetings regarding the Martin Falls Community Access Road draft environmental assessment. This is what a draft EA looks like – sadly so much can be hidden in such a document that is so inaccessible to land users. The government provided Ginoogaming with funding to hire experts to review this report to help us submit a critical evaluation. Tamarack Environmental will be in the community on June 4th and 5th to present their findings to the Elders, Youth, Women's and Men's Councils as well as getting your important feedback to submit to the government of Ontario.

Draft MFCAR Environmental Assessment

June 4th – 12- 3 pm, lunch provided

Chi Anishnawbe Anaknegewin, (Elder's Council). The Elders are sharing their wisdom, providing guidance and making traditional laws for the community.

June 4th – 5-7pm, dinner provided

The **Shkadzug Anaknegewin** (Youth Council, ages 15-29) provides insight and awareness of new ideas for capital planning and activities for the community. They also protect the land and help maintain it for generations to come. Youth also advise on mental health and wellbeing.

June 5th - 12-2 pm, lunch provided

The **Kweyook Anaknegewin** (Women's Council ages 30-54) is also being formed. Traditionally women are the water keepers and the decision makers. They work with the community to form consensus. They also guide the youth.

June 5th - 12-2 pm, lunch provided

The **Kweyook Anaknegewin** (Women's Council ages 30-54) is also being formed. Traditionally women are the water keepers and the decision makers. They work with the community to form consensus. They also guide the youth.

June 5th - 5-7 pm, dinner provided

The **Ininiyook Anaknegewin** (Men's law/council ages 30-54) are the doers. They take action and work with the other councils to make the decisions happen and get things done. They also guide the youth and protect the land.





GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION LANDS & RESOURCES

Coming Soon – Conduct Phase of Kiwana Bi’Kag (Ring of Fire)

In this phase, we will work together to identify and carry out critical studies within Ginoogaming First Nation and across Treaty 9 territory. These studies will help First Nations set clear priorities related to community well-being, governance, land protection, and economic opportunities.

The results of these studies will form key recommendations that feed into the Regional Assessment – a mandatory step that must be completed before any Ring of Fire development can proceed.

Ontario’s Bill 5

There is increasing pressure from both the provincial and federal governments to accelerate road and mining projects in Kiwana Bi’Kag (Ring of Fire). These efforts are driven under the guise of economic concerns and an urgency to respond to U.S. tariffs. Ontario has introduced Bill 5 which deregulates environmental safeguards and species at risk planning and protection, creating a sacrifice zone for economic development. Without adequate checks and balances in place, including our free, prior, and informed consent and an inclusion of our traditional knowledge and laws in the decision-making process, Ancestral homelands are at risk to development from proponents. Ginoogaming First Nation continues to challenge the province of Ontario on the Mining Act as well as Bill 5.





GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION LANDS & RESOURCES

Calvin Taylor – Lands and Resources Coordinator

Boozhoo. Please be aware that the 52 Landing Bridge is closed. The bridge has deteriorated and is unsafe to use. We have posted signs to stay off the bridge. Please come and talk to our Lands Guardians Curtis Towegeeshig and Sam Gerard with any concerns. This closure may affect some of our land users who will be required to rely on boat access to traplines. On a positive note, the closure restricts access to our sacred Wiisinin Zaagi'igan to outsiders and industry. It will be some time before a replacement bridge is in place, giving us time to reevaluate access, boundaries and traditional assets - not to be disturbed.

Forestry

Forestry activity in the Kenogami Forest is very limited, especially after the AV Terrace Bay mill closed. We're planning a meeting with the Chiefs to discuss how to support Nedaak and Ogwiid—First Nation-owned companies—through this tough period and explore new opportunities.

It's important we work together to keep control over forest management and ensure our communities continue to benefit from the forest economy. With guidance from Northwinds Environmental, we'll review:

- The state of the forestry sector and its impact on Ogwiid and Nedaak
- Each company's responsibilities, business plans, and financial outlook
- Nedaak's Forest Management Services Contract
- First Nations' goals for the Kenogami Forest
- How well Ogwiid and Nedaak are meeting those goals
- Strategies to move forward
- A joint workplan with clear roles and timelines

This is a time to collaborate and protect our shared interests in the forest.

Don't Forget – Got Wood Castles is jointly owned by Needak – that means us! We encourage members and businesses to shop there. We are looking forward to developing Tiny Home building projects and potential new business ventures through his shared asset.

Bridge

We continue to work with the provincial and federal government towards a permanent bridge. We have established a working group to discuss location and construction related to the communities needs as well as ownership and maintenance of Blueberry St. Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation will be visiting our community on June 5th for a tour and to begin informed discussion on bridge replacement.

Minodahmun Development LP Update – May 2025

Boozhoo Ginoogaming First Nation Members,

Minodahmun Development LP is proud to share some exciting updates as we continue working to build capacity and create long-term economic opportunities and partnerships that benefit Ginoogaming First Nation and our other owner communities Aroland First Nation and Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek. Here are some highlights:

1. Infrastructure Projects

MDLP is actively involved in several infrastructure projects across the region, including at the Equinox Gold Greenstone Mine, where our earthworks company – Amik Construction- is building the tailings dam and other site infrastructure. We are also completing culvert replacements for the Ministry of Transportation on Highway 11 and Highway 584. These projects not only bring economic benefits but also create valuable employment and training opportunities for our members.

2. Training & Employment

Our focus remains on building capacity within Ginoogaming First Nation. In the past few months, we have ran several training courses that prepared GFN members for jobs in mining and construction. We are currently running a Heavy Equipment Operator Course at Migizi Plaza in Geraldton. This 6 week course teaches students an introduction to heavy equipment operating and includes seat time and on-site ride along in mine haul trucks. We also completed our inaugural Greenstone Mine Experience Program in May. This innovative program was designed to provide participants with essential certifications and a taste of life at the mine site. The course included common core certifications, site tours, job shadowing, job interviews and even holding a gold bar! Well done to all of our incredible students! We look forward to seeing your continued success and long careers at Greenstone Gold Mines or elsewhere. We are also running a G2 Drivers Training Course to give students in car driver training to prepare for their G2 or G road tests. If you are interested in signing up for training, please email: damien.bouchard@minodahmun.ca



GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION LANDS & RESOURCES

3. Business Development & Partnerships

Minodahmun continues to explore joint ventures and partnerships with industry leaders that align with our values and vision. These partnerships help ensure that our community has a strong voice and stake in major projects happening in our territory. In total Minodahmun has 60 joint ventures or partnerships established.

4. Migizi Plaza

We have commenced construction at our Migizi Plaza site in Geraldton but progress has been slow. There was a large amount of organic material to remove and replace with rock. This is still ongoing. We are also working through the various permitting processes. We have been delayed due to the entrance permit from MTO and still continue negotiations. On the positive side, we have signed agreements with Tim Hortons and A&W to bring franchises to the site. We will commence construction in 2026.

Minodahmun in partnership with the Municipality of Greenstone purchased “the Moose” from GFN member Addica MacIver to display at Migizi Plaza. Addica welded the Moose sculpture in high school welding class. The Moose will first go to the Thunder Bay Art Gallery where it will be displayed from June to September. Amazing work Addica!

Miigwetch for your continued support.

If you have any questions or are interested in employment or training opportunities, please contact us at:

info@minodahmun.ca

www.minodahmun.ca

Follow us on Facebook @Minodahmun Development LP





GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION LANDS & RESOURCES





Indigenous Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program

I'd Like to introduce myself to those of you that do not know me, my name is Tamara Loney but I prefer to be called Mara. Some of you may know me as I've been working in Ginoogaming FN for 3 years but have now excitedly taken on the position of Ginoogaming's Indigenous Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program! I hope to excel in this position and provide our members who are expecting or have young children with the necessary supports that best suit their needs and the needs of the children. Whether that be supplies, mental health support, prenatal info/support & help finding services, then referring clients to those services. If you or anyone you know is expecting or has young children that could benefit from this program, please feel free to call or stop by for a cup of coffee if you have any questions or concerns, my office is located in the Ginoogaming FN Health Centre!

IHBHC Program Info:

The Indigenous Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program is a voluntary program open to indigenous families that request services with children prenatal to 6 years of age. The heart of the IHBHC program is preparation for parenting, getting ready for the birth of the baby, and taking care of the baby and family unit. The IHBHC community workers are a valuable asset to families and communities as they have knowledge of child growth and development, are aware of the resources available in the community and are able to connect families with those services and supports. This program fosters healing and supports healthy child development, maternal health and improve access to services to reduce health inequities for indigenous families. Assisting Indigenous families to provide the best opportunities for healthy development using a wholistic, culturally responsive and strengths-based approach. Connecting families with resources, referrals and/or services to address their needs.

Email – tamara.loney@ginoogamingfn.ca Phone – (807)-876-2732 ext:215



Measles is a highly contagious viral respiratory infection.

It is spread by infected people coughing or sneezing the virus into the air.

It can also be spread by touching a surface that has the virus on it, and then touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. *The virus can live in the air or on surfaces for 2 hours*



HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF?

- Immunization - 2 doses
- Isolate and avoid contact
- Hand hygiene
- Cover coughs and sneezes

Measles

MEASLES RATES IN ONTARIO

In 2025, there has been 1,646 measles cases reported (January 1 - May 13, 2025).

8 cases required hospitalization, *all 8 were unimmunized.*

INFECTION

Symptoms appear 7-21 days after exposure to the virus. Measles can be spread before symptoms appear.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

First symptoms may include fever, cough, runny nose, and red watery eyes. Between days 3-7, white spots may appear in the mouth and throat, and a rash may spread from the face to the body.

WHAT TO DO IF INFECTED

Contact your primary health care provider.

QUESTIONS?

Call us - 1-833-625-3611



**MATAWA
HEALTH
COOPERATIVE**



R N A O
BEST PRACTICE
SPOTLIGHT
ORGANIZATION
INDIGENOUS
FOCUSED

To wellness through wholeness

Did Your Child Receive a Suspension Letter Due to Missing Vaccines?

**WE CAN
HELP!**

**Come see
TammyDube RN
Health Nurse
Ginoogaming Health
centre or call
(807)-876-2732**

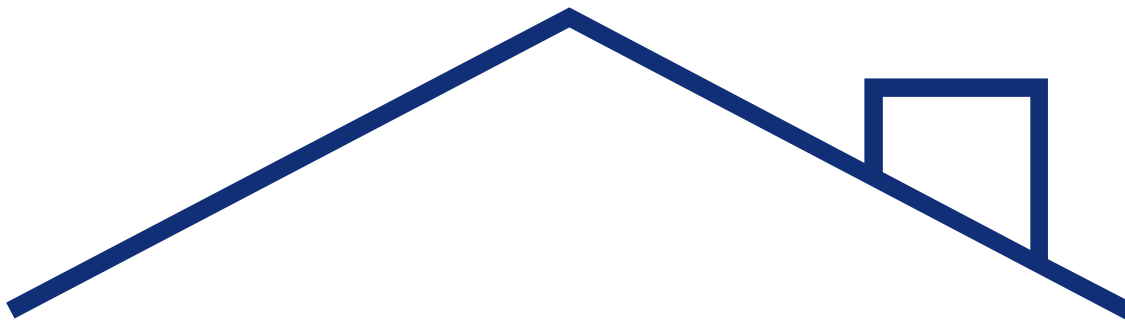
Please bring the letter that was sent to you



To wellness through wholeness



**MATAWA
HEALTH
COOPERATIVE**



Boozhoo Ginoogaming Members,

Mino-Ziigwan (happy spring) I would like to say we survived another long winter with great things happening here in Ginoogaming! Here are some things that we are currently completed and working on:

- The 3 five-bedroom homes were completed in December of 2024, with the families happily moved into
- Waiting on approval from Section 95 for 3 homes to be demolished and rebuilt
- Current renovation project is coming to a close and a new set of renovations will be submitted
- Ordered fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, first aid kits and fire blanket for each home IN the community which will be delivered to each home by our Maintenance Team with installation and instructions on how to use when needed
- We have been given a mini home that was completed by high school students which we prepared a lot for, date unknown when we will receive the unit



This is where the mini home will be placed on Echum Drive



Our maintenance crew taking chainsaw course

Meegwetch from the Ginoogaming Housing Manager Kelly Fortier and the Maintenance Crew Graham Echum, Gene Mendowegan, Aidan Fortier and Basil Mendowegan!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself Kelly at Kelly.fortier@ginoogamingfn.ca or (807) 876 2242.

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF SHERI TAYLOR AND COUNCIL



As Chief of Ginoogaming First Nation, I want to take a moment to share with you the progress we've made and the direction we're moving in, always with the guidance of our elders, women, youth, and fellow council members. Everything I do is grounded in our teachings, ceremony, and the well-being of our community. It's your voices that continue to guide me, and I carry your messages forward in every conversation, every meeting, and every decision I make.

Council and I continue to work in partnership with both the federal and provincial governments, always reminding them of the responsibilities they carry through the 1906 James Bay Treaty. These aren't just political discussions, they're about protecting our rights, our land, and our future. My position has always been clear: we must work together, but our community's needs and voices must lead the way and be the decision makers.

The work is demanding. Every day, I respond to dozens of emails from ministries, government departments, industry, and community members. It's important to stay on top of every message, whether it's about land use plans, proposals from the Ministry of Mines, or updates from contractors, because every single one can affect our people and our lands. It takes time, effort, and constant attention, but I do my best to make sure nothing is missed.

We've made real progress. Since declaring a state of emergency, we've taken strong steps forward. Our work on the Ginoogaming River Bridge continues, and our long-term goal is a two-lane bridge to better serve our members. We're in talks with the province to return the water lot and Blueberry Road to GFN, and we're advocating hard for the funding we need to make this happen.

We've also secured funding for paving, lighting along the bridgeway, landscaping projects, and much-needed renovations. We're working with contractors on service lot designs and continuously applying for funding to improve our infrastructure.

On June 5th, we'll welcome the Minister of Indigenous Affairs from Ontario to tour our community, an important opportunity to show the progress being made and to continue pushing for support and meet with Ontario and Canada on the working group.

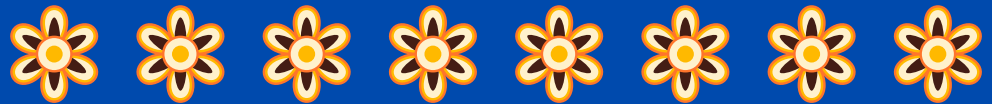
Mental wellness remains a top priority. We've sent out a policing questionnaire to better understand the gaps in services, and we're moving forward with a vision for a youth hub. I also want to share that we've recently purchased a transition home in town which we're working hard to secure funding to support its operations.

I'm also excited to share that our basketball court is getting an upgrade. Thanks to funding from Ontario through the State of Emergency program, new rubber matting for basketball, volleyball, pickleball, and badminton will be installed this June, along with proper lighting.

Every step we take is about building a stronger, healthier future for GFN. I know the path isn't always easy, but I see the hope in our members and the pride in what we're building together. I'm deeply grateful for the ongoing support and hard work of our Council. Together, we continue to push for better, for the wellness of our people and the strength of our Nation.

Miigwech for your continued strength and support.

Sincerely,



Sheri Taylor
Chief, Ginoogaming First Nation

Update on the Making Ground River Bridge

May 28, 2025

Ginoogaming First Nation (GFN) is standing strong to have safe and permanent access restored to our reserve community. In November 2024, an engineering inspection commissioned by GFN determined that the Making Ground River Bridge was at risk of failure at any moment. A temporary, modular bridge has since been installed to restore interim access while GFN works towards the construction of a permanent bridge.

In 2025, GFN has convened meetings with representatives from the governments of Ontario and Canada to discuss solutions to restore permanent access into our Nation. On June 5, 2025, representatives of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation (IAFNER) are expected to attend GFN for an in-person meeting to discuss the state of GFN's infrastructure.

Our Nation has the right to fully participate in Northwestern Ontario's expanding regional economy. Safe, reliable infrastructure is critical to achieve that objective. GFN is pushing our Treaty partners, Ontario and Canada, to act quickly to help us build and maintain a safe crossing so that we can turn our focus to creating meaningful opportunities for our members.



GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION BAND REP PROGRAM

Geraldine, Holly, Tracy and Kirsten would like to thank all members who put your trust in our work and we will continue to fulfil our duties as community helpers. We are here to meet your needs and welcome all feedback to ensure we are on the right track to meeting all expectations.

Upcoming events for the Band Rep include: Regalia Making, Pow-Wow outings, regular scheduled programming, Ernie and Bert Program for the children during the summer, Mental Health Workshops, Advocacy for clients, Home Visits. If there is any program you do not see but would like to happen, please email or stop by the office.

Upcoming Parenting resources – Triple P program will start in September for parents who are interested in the course. We will offer evening classes as well as incentives and childcare for the course. More info to follow.

Thank you for your continued support. We're looking forward to future programming together. Our work would not be a success without our community members who enjoy attending regularly.

Please enjoy some pictures of our programming over the past few months.





GINOOGAMING FIRST NATION BAND REP PROGRAM



REPLY TO: Kate Kempton

kkempton@woodwardandcompany.com

Toronto Office

ASSISTANT: Lina Santana

lsantana@woodwardandcompany.com

May 29, 2025

Ginoogaming First Nation Overview of Cases

KATE KEMPTON: 6526 ENBRIDGE GAS INDIGENOUS WORKING GROUP

OVERVIEW:

In 2023, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) made an order that Enbridge Gas had to develop and implement an Indigenous Working Group (IWG) to have oversight and consult about all matters to do with delivery of natural gas and the natural gas pipelines, that affect Indigenous communities in Ontario. This includes very important issues like how Enbridge is going to transition from natural gas – which emits greenhouse gases and causes climate change – to non-GHG-emitting fuels and energy sources. This came about in large part due to GFN's participation before the OEB in a hearing to set new rates for Enbridge natural gas, that it charges customers.

UPDATE:

The IWG has met about a dozen times . The costs of the experts, lawyers and participants for GFN and other indigenous parties, are covered by Enbridge. The meeting results are reported to the OEB to maximize accountability. They are public. The indigenous parties retained an expert to hold Enbridge accountable on its energy transition plans and to ensure that GFN and other indigenous parties play a key role in this. We are expecting Enbridge responses and actions soon.

SABA AHMAD: 6640 MINING ACT CONSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGE

OVERVIEW:

In August of 2024, eight FNs, including Ginoogaming FN, launched a constitutional challenge of the Mining Act by bringing an application – which means a judge will decide the case on a paper record, without live witnesses. The case alleges that Ontario fails its duty to consult and accommodate FNs when it automatically green-lights exploration activities by proponents, most of whom have no connection to the land, beyond having a desire to profit from it. By simply registering on Ontario’s website, they gain interest in the land in priority to FNs, which offends your sovereignty.

Ontario filed a Notice of Appearance in September, and we advised that our “paper record” would be delivered in “early 2025”.

UPDATE:

Since then, two new applicants have joined the cause: Alderville FN and North Spirit Lake FN. We asked Ontario to consent to their addition as parties, and they have not yet responded. While we do not expect Ontario to object, the delay makes it impractical to deliver our materials.

In the meantime, we have delivered a Notice of Constitutional Question and have made good progress drafting 8 different affidavits. Some critical evidence has been delayed, including a shape file indicating the general territorial boundaries of each nation’s traditional territory, and letters from proponents from the mining industry who are supportive of our cause. These pieces are finally coming together, and we expect to be in a position to swiftly serve our materials once Ontario consents to the new parties, at which point the ball will be in Ontario’s court.

KENJIKENJI TOKAWA: 6649 FLOODING SPECIFIC CLAIM

OVERVIEW:

This claim is about the flooding and erosion damage caused to the reserve from the Kenogami Dam. While Canada took legal action against Ontario Hydro on behalf of Long Lake Band #58 whose reserve was also flooded and eroded, it never took action on behalf of Ginoogaming. Ginoogaming tried to get Canada to compensate Ginoogaming in the mid-90s, but Canada denied having any responsibility.

UPDATE:

Canada still owes Ginoogaming for its part in allowing the damage it allowed to occur. New case law supports the claim against Canada making it even more likely that Canada will want to settle this claim. A comprehensive research report is being compiled this year, and once complete, additional legal arguments will use the new case law to strengthen the claim. The new report and legal arguments will be used as the basis for negotiating compensation with Canada.

NICHOLAS DAUBE: 6337 CASE AGAINST ONTARIO TO PROTECT WIISININ ZAAHGIGAN

OVERVIEW:

This case seeks to protect Wiisnin Zaahgi'igan and the burial grounds, sacred areas, and sites located there. It also seeks to protect Ginoogaming's right to practice spiritual activities in the area, and to hunt, fish, trap, and gather food and medicines there.

The main risk that Wiisnin Zaahgi'igan faces is that the Ontario Government will allow mining development and exploration to happen there. There are many mining claims that developers have already made without the agreement of Ginoogaming. This kind of development could damage the area.

Earlier on in this case, we were successful in stopping the Ferau project, which was a mining project that would happen in Wiisnin Zaahgi'igan. The court agreed with Ginoogaming and ordered an injunction, which meant that the development couldn't continue until more consultations happened.

UPDATE:

We are still moving ahead with the case to try to get additional protections for Wiisnin Zaahgi'igan. Unfortunately, Ontario has still not done anything to stop future mining permits in Wiisnin Zaahgi'igan or to protect Ginoogaming's rights in the area. We will need to continue to gather evidence to prepare the case for a possible trial in the future.

If we win, a successful court order could help to make sure that development in the future only takes place with Ginoogaming's consultation and approval

6315: TREATY 9 CO-JURISDICTION CASE

OVERVIEW:

Ginoogaming is partners with many other Treaty 9 First Nations in this case. It is against both the federal and the provincial governments.

We are arguing that Treaty 9 does not include all the promises that the government made at the time Ginoogaming signed the treaty. We are also saying that Ginoogaming and the other First Nations only agreed to share their land with the settlers, not to give up their lands and rights. Decision-making should be shared with Treaty 9 First Nations.

UPDATE:

The case is still very early on. Ontario is making procedural arguments and asking the court to reject the case this year. We will need to fight this argument, and if we are successful, we will need to continue to gather evidence to prepare the case for a possible trial in the future.

6297: TC ENERGY ABOUT THE DAMAGE THEIR PIPELINE CAUSES

OVERVIEW:

This case is about the Mainline Pipeline. This is the pipeline that crosses Ginoogaming's territories and is owned by TC Energy. The owners of the pipeline have been operating it and doing maintenance digs since the 1950s. This has produced negative effects in the area around the pipeline.

In the lawsuit, Ginoogaming and Aroland are trying to get the government and TC Energy to discuss TC Energy's operations on the pipeline and what should be done about them, since the maintenance digs affect the area and Ginoogaming's Indigenous rights. They are also asking for payment for the harm the pipeline has already done.

UPDATE:

Both Ginoogaming and Aroland have been trying to negotiate with TC Energy. If TC Energy agrees to a fair deal, the lawsuit might not be necessary. But if no fair deal is possible, we will need to continue to gather evidence to prepare the case for a possible trial in the future.

PATRICK MCCAUGHERTY : 6616 THUNDER GOLD EXPLORATION**OVERVIEW:**

Thunder Gold staked claims in Ginoogaming territory. Ginoogaming had discussions with Thunder Gold which were positive and Ginoogaming shared an exploration agreement with Thunder Gold to engage in negotiations. Legal counsel requested that the Ministry of Mines place on the issuance of any exploration permits to Thunder Gold.

UPDATE:

Thunder Gold decided to withdraw their project and therefore no further negotiations occurred between the company and Ginoogaming.

6630: SILVER SPRUCE EXPLORATION**OVERVIEW:**

Silver Spruce has an exploration agreement signed with Ginoogaming First Nation. Silver Spruce and Ginoogaming initially signed an exploration agreement in 2021. In 2024, Silver Spruce staked additional claims in Ginoogaming Territory, specifically in the Melchett Lake area. An addendum was added to the exploration agreement to ensure that the new claims would be included in the provisions of the previous exploration agreement. Of particular importance, a new archaeological assessment was to be conducted for the new area.

UPDATE:

This assessment was completed but not to the standard Ginoogaming liked and Silver Spruce has agreed to ensure that further work is completed on the archaeological assessment. This assessment will ensure that any areas of significant importance and value will be protected and off-limits to mineral development. No exploration activity will occur until this assessment is completed.

6681: FORTESCUE METALS EXPLORATION**OVERVIEW:**

Fortescue Metals met with Ginoogaming and legal counsel to discuss mining claims in Ginoogaming territory. A number of Fortescue claims were within the WZ. Ginoogaming made it abundantly clear to Fortescue that the WZ is an area that is completely off-limits to mineral exploration and development more broadly and that Fortescue cannot pursue its

claims in this area. Fortescue agreed not to pursue these claims and would consider withdrawing them.

UPDATE:

Fortescue wanted to walk the land in the other areas but given the significant number of claims that were within the WZ did not expect to move forward. Fortescue was willing to negotiate an exploration agreement for its other claims if it decided to pursue them. We have not been in contact with Fortescue for a few months and no exploration permits or plans have been pursued for any of their claims.

6745: GENERATION MINES MARATHON PALLADIUM MINE

OVERVIEW:

Marathon Palladium mine project was approved by a joint review panel a couple of years ago. A number of permits and approvals are still required for the project. There are significant approvals with respect to fish habitat and Ginoogaming has been consulted on the impacts to fish habitat in Ginoogaming territory.

UPDATE:

Generation has agreed to provide like for like compensation and institute mitigation measures that will offset the impacts to fish and fish habitat. Generation has also agreed to pursue negotiations into an impact benefit like agreement which will provide Ginoogaming with financial compensation and environmental protection and monitoring measures. Generation has been provided with budgets to provide Ginoogaming with capacity to undertake the work required to negotiate the fish compensation measures as well as the impact benefit agreement. We are expecting a response from Generation regarding provide funding and beginning the negotiations soon.

END OF REPORT