



Martin Bayer, Chief Negotiator for the Anishinabek Nation on the governance negotiations, explained the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement and the negotiations to Chiefs-in-Assembly at the Anishinabek Nation Fall Assembly in Little Current, Ont., on November 14.

– Photo by Laura Barrios

Anishinabek Nation Chiefs seek to move governance ratification vote to late 2019

By Marci Becking

LITTLE CURRENT – Anishinabek Nation Chiefs-in-Assembly met in Little Current on November 14-15 and have directed the Restoration of Jurisdiction department at the Anishinabek Nation to engage the federal government to extend the ratification vote for the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement to November 2019.

Since 1995, the Anishinabek Nation has engaged in governance negotiations with the federal government as mandated by resolution #95-25. Since the passing of this resolution 23 years ago, there have been many positive changes in member First Nations that have taken place as some First Nations within the Anishinabek Nation are already doing their own best practices in governance and do not want to compromise their own governance.

Prior to this assembly, the federal government had targeted July 2019 for the ratification of the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement by Anishinabek Nation citizens, primarily to fit into their federal election timelines.

The Anishinabek Chiefs-in-Assembly expressed concerns over potential impacts that the Governance Agreement may have on current and future agreements that may have not been sufficiently assessed and have

requested that the vote date for the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement be extended in order to allow more time to consult with the Anishinabek citizens.

Angus Toulouse, a councillor with Sagamok Anishnawbek, Serpent River First Nation Chief Elaine Johnston and Sheguiandah First Nation Chief Andrew Aguonie spoke out about the approach with Canada.

“We talk about the Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe and this approach with Canada does not address what our responsibilities to our peoples [are],” said Toulouse. “This suggests that we’re going to set aside our treaty and forage ahead with a new organization that would be our government that would bring us together to fight over the little bit of resources that the government will allow us to fight over. We need to reconcile how [we as 1850 people] are going to live and benefit from the resources of the land. As Robinson Huron treaty people, we are forcing the discussion with the annuity claim.”

Chief Johnston says that she feels that she is not being heard.

“I have my Eagle Feather with me. There have been a lot of changes since this agreement happened. We had our own governments and our natural laws. We already had our own governments,” said Chief Johnston. “To our people: Is the Union of Ontario In-

dians our government? No. Anishinabek Nation is bigger than the 40 First Nations. It goes into the U.S. and Manitoba. We had this discussion about relationships in our Lake Huron meeting. We have concerns about Restoration of Jurisdiction. I believe that there is a role for the UOI – it is an advocacy organization. It needs to open the door and get out of the way for us to have dialogues. The government likes to pit us against each other. They like that we work in these little silos. They don’t have to recognize us as individual First Nations. Our people have the inherent right – [it] does not belong at the UOI, it belongs at home. You can’t talk about governance without talking about land. The UOI doesn’t understand. We are working on governance, citizenship and constitution. We are not on your list. This is my concern to that. Times have changed since 1995. One of the things we said – we are moving fast and seems to be according to government timelines. Why are we following government timelines?”

Chief Aguonie said that when you say the treaties aren’t a part of this, you are right.

“[The treaty relationship] was supposed to be a brother/sister relationship with the Crown, not paternal. The Crown took that upon themselves,” said Chief Aguonie. “They have never conquered us—constitu-

tions are under Canadian framework. Natural law – our constitutions are our Pipes when we decided something about life. I can talk about the beginning of time and that history – the way we viewed competition. The bottom line is that’s what we need to govern ourselves. The Canadian government will never acknowledge our natural law. I feel like if we are going to do something new, it has to be about the land, the government and stewardship. If there is no land, there is no life. It is hard to live on our postage stamps. When people talk about climate adaption, they should talk about fixing it up.”

The Anishinabek Nation anticipates the completion of the governance negotiations by December 2018.

Martin Bayer, Chief Negotiator for the Anishinabek Nation on the governance negotiations, explained that these negotiations are not about treaties because the Chiefs never wanted the negotiations to be about treaties when they mandated these negotiations.

“We are following the mandate we were given by the Chiefs and doing the work we were asked to do by you,” Bayer explained.

Bayer also noted that the inherent right of self-government of the First Nations is already recognized in the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement.



The print edition of the *Anishinabek News* is a quarterly publication of the *Anishinabek News*. Views expressed are not necessarily the opinion or political position of the Union of Ontario Indians.

No portion of this paper, or online content, including advertisements, artwork, photos and editorial content may be reproduced without written permission of the *Anishinabek News* Editor.

Readers are invited to submit letters, articles, and photos for publication. Please include your name, address and telephone number on all material submitted. All submissions will be reviewed for publication based on priority of interest and edited for clarity of thought, taste, brevity and legal implications. Remuneration will be paid for submissions only if a written agreement with the Editor is made prior to publication.

For news all the time, visit:
www.anishinabeknews.ca

Editor: Marci Becking
Assistant Editor: Laura Barrios
Layout: Marci Becking
Advertising: Marci Becking

Contributors: Andrea Crawford, Kelly Anne Smith and Maurice Switzer.

PH: 705-497-9127 ~ 1-877-702-5200
www.anishinabeknews.ca
E-MAIL: news@anishinabek.ca
P.O. Box 711, Nipissing First Nation, North Bay, ON, P1B 8J8

The current circulation of the Anishinabek News is 3,000 copies.

DEADLINE FOR SPRING PRINT EDITION

March 8, 2019

For more information or inquiries to the Anishinabek News related to circulation issues please call our Toll-free number: 1-877-702-5200. All advertising inquiries can be sent to news@anishinabek.ca

www.anishinabeknews.ca

ISSN 1182-3178 ANISHINABEK NEWS (PRINT)
ISSN 1923-0710 ANISHINABEK NEWS (ONLINE)



Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Glen Hare at the Anishinabek Nation fall Chiefs Assembly in Little Current.

– Photo by Laura Barrios

Anishinabek Nation leadership oppose Canada's Indigenous Rights Framework

ANISHINABEK NATION HEAD OFFICE (November 16, 2018) —The Anishinabek Nation Chiefs-in-Assembly unanimously oppose and reject the federal government's Indigenous Rights Framework. The Anishinabek Nation leadership join other organizations advocating on behalf of their leadership and citizens, such as the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians (AIAI), who reject the framework and all of its associated processes.

"The Anishinabek Nation leadership have unanimously rejected and oppose any future development of Canada's Indigenous Rights Framework," says Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Glen Hare.

"Something as crucial as this should not be subject to timelines. We are always dealing with last minute compliance from Canada."

On February 14, 2018, the Government of Canada announced their intent to create a federal framework on Indigenous Rights based on their interest to renew the relationship with Indigenous Peoples.

The federal government has recently announced the delay in the implementation of the Indigenous Rights Framework until after the 2019 federal election.

The implementation of the Indigenous Rights Framework will further entrench infringements of First Nation jurisdiction by the federal government through empower-

ment of Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution.

The Indigenous Rights Framework is separate and apart from the fulfillment of treaty obligations of the federal government.

The Anishinabek Nation notified Canada formally in April 2018 that any discussions on this issue must occur directly with Anishinabek Nation Chiefs. To date, those discussions have not taken place.

"There has been no evidence of a partnership approach and no nation-to-nation discussions," adds Grand Council Chief Hare. "Once again, we're being left in the dark and out of conversations that we need to be a part of, especially because it directly impacts us."

Koganaawsawin to staff up April 1

By Marci Becking

BIINJITIWAABIK ZAAGING ANISHINABEK – Social Services Director Adrienne Pelletier has big plans for Koganaawsawin.

"We want a better deal for an Anishinabek Nation with a prevention-based system," says Pelletier to the Child Well-Being working group on Oct. 16-17 in Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek. "It needs to support everyone in the family. Just as Ogimaa Peltier says, 'we won't leave people behind'. We need to support our parents so that they can raise themselves up. Reignite their spirit."

Koganaawsawin will support a prevention-based model in Ontario with a focus on customary care.

Pelletier explains that through Koganaawsawin, funds will flow directly to the First Nations.

"Agencies will continue to receive their full funding."

To date, there are 12 Anishinabek First Nations who have adopted the Child

Well-Being Law. Pelletier says that there will be more staff hired after April 1, 2019, to get Koganaawsawin operational.

Pelletier also pitched to the Child Well-Being working group meeting the idea of having a Band Representative organization that could possibly do things such as support capacity building aimed at enhancing competency, skills development and leadership among Band Representatives.

The organization could also develop and implement service delivery standards and certify Band Representatives.

"Every First Nation should have a band rep," says Pelletier. "The Anishinabek Nation has been asked to host a province-wide Band Rep training session. This session will be held January 15-17, 2019, in Toronto."

Ronnie George, Prevention Services Officer at the Anishinabek Nation, gave a presentation to the group on the draft Anishinabek Nation Children's Bill of Rights. George and Stan Cloud, Child Well-Being Policy Analyst at the Anishinabek Nation, also gave a presentation on Kinadinwendaagnak



Ronnie George, Prevention Services Officer and Stan Cloud, Child Well-Being Policy Analyst at the Anishinabek Nation, gave a presentation on Kinadinwendaagnak – All My Relations at the Child Well-Being working group meeting on October 16-17 in Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek.

– All My Relations. This committee will serve as the voice of the family members raising children of the Anishinabek Nation. The committee will advise Koganaawsawin and provide strategic direction and leadership to ensure the empowering of those family members' ability to provide safe, long-term care for the children.

Other presentations were given by legal counsel Tracey O'Donnell on Securing Recognition of First Nation Jurisdiction and Funding from Canada, Leanna Farr and Stan Cloud on Alternative Dispute Resolution and a Community Agreement and Community Standards update from Stan Cloud and Ronnie George.

Decisions and discussions at AES gathering

By Andrea Crawford

AUNDECK OMNI KANING FIRST NATION—Leadership from the Participating First Nations (PFNs) of the Anishinabek Education System (AES) gathered on November 13 in Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation. The meeting, which was opened by Elder Norma Assinewai, brought together leadership from 20 of the 23 PFNs.

Chiefs, proxies and education representatives received updates from the Kinooaadziwin Education Body (KEB) board of directors and staff, before making decisions on several motions.

As members to the AES, the PFNs gather twice a year to keep updated on programs and services, operations, the implementation of the federal and provincial education agreements. The PFNs use the bi-annual forums to vote on major decisions related to the AES and the KEB.

Included among the decisions put forward to leadership, were motions related to the composition of the Implementation and Operations Committee, the establishment of an ad hoc KEB Chiefs Committee and on-going operations under the Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement.

Participants also heard updates and held discussions on various other topics, including education funding, special projects and initiatives, the student information management system, special education funding, data sharing and consent.

KEB technicians and representatives were also in attendance of the Anishinabek Nation Fall Assembly on November 14 in Little Current. This was the first event where a full complement of KEB technicians attended.

Kelly Crawford, the KEB Director of Education, presented to the Chiefs-in-Assembly at the Anishinabek Nation Fall Assembly along with Catherine Pawis, chair of the KEB board of directors, and Tracey O'Donnell, KEB legal counsel.

The presentation provided general updates related to the AES and the KEB, which garnered high-interest from the PFNs and non-participating First Nations alike.

Following the gathering of PFNs and the update to the Chiefs-in-Assembly at the Anishinabek Nation Fall Assembly, the AES has been hosting several Regional Education Council (REC) meetings in November and will continue into December. One meeting will take place in each of the four RECs of the AES, and will bring together education representatives from PFNs and from Ontario District School Boards.

The intent of the REC meetings is to provide updates on educational initiatives, to identify regional education priorities and to network and build relationships with local school boards.



Kelly Crawford



Director of Education, Kelly Crawford (centre), prepares staff of the Kinooaadziwin Education Body for the 23 Participating First Nations gathering of the Anishinabek Education System on November 13, 2018.



Health Directors from all over the Anishinabek Nation territory met at a Health Transformation summit in Toronto Dec. 3-4, 2018.

Health Transformation begins with on-the-ground direction from health providers

By Marci Becking

TORONTO – Health Directors from all over Anishinabek Nation territory met in Toronto on Dec. 3-4, 2018 to talk about what Health Transformation could look like and what direction this engagement process should take with First Nations citizens.

Health Transformation champion and former Chief of Kettle and Stony Point, Tom Bressette, says that he has been an advocate for people to assume the control of health care for a long time. He spoke to the some 30 participants in the room and urged them to help us create a path forward.

“We need to take control about what we are complaining about,” says Bressette. “Services aren’t what they should be. You guys are the health professionals. You are from our communities and know what our needs, problems and short falls are. If

we had a better system, we could put all funding together in one envelope and come up with a good set of health professionals who will guide and decide what direction to take. It won’t be political people. It will be people like you who have spent your lives working and servicing our people in health care. We need you. We need your input to tell us what you want.”

Bressette says that our assertion over health jurisdiction will make us stronger as a nation.

“We were advanced in health care before the Europeans got here. It’s about time we got to use what we shared and do it ourselves. The reality is we’re here [at this summit] doing some planning. This is the first step.”

Deputy Regional Northern Superior Chief Ed Wawia reminded the group to not forget about our citizens off reserve. Wawia also participated in the round-

robin group work and focussed on what a governance structure for health would look like.

The two-day summit was facilitated by Mariette Sutherland who put the group to work brainstorming in the areas of communications and collaboration; culturally appropriate/language/natural law; vision, values & principles; governance, consent and communications; infrastructure, data management and financial resources and finally, scope.

Other speakers were Anishinabek Nation Health Director Jamie Restoule; Assistant Director of Partnerships Canada Julien Castonguay; Chief Operating Officer of the First Nation Health Authority Richard Jock; Regional Executive of First Nations & Inuit Health Branch Ontario Gerry Best and the Anishinabek Nation Health Transformation Fiscal Analyst John Scherebnyj.



Three Elders and three youth called on Indigenous peoples to support the youth as they strive to protect Mother Earth and her languages and to listen to the wisdom of Elders. The panel included Elders Terry Bouchard of Red Rock Indian Band; Leroy Dolson from Munsee Delaware Nation; and Mike Esquega Sr. from Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek. The panel also included youths Candace Neveau of Baawaatingong First Nation; Brittany Moses of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg; and Pierre Debassige of M'Chigeeng First Nation.



Brittany Moses is the Environmental Coordinator with the Department of Sustainable Development of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg.
— Photos by Laura Barrios

A better future with strength of youth and wisdom of the Elders

By Kelly Anne Smith

NORTH BAY—Three Elders and three youth called on Indigenous peoples to support the youth as they strive to protect Mother Earth and her languages and to listen to the wisdom of Elders.

They were part of an Elders and Youth discussion panel at the Anishinabek Nation Lands and Resources Forum: Everything is Connected, held recently in North Bay on Nov. 6-8. The importance of treaties, culture and language were considered, as was technology in furthering education and awareness in communities.

Brittany Moses is a member of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg and is the Environmental Coordinator with the Department of Sustainable Development of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg. Moses urges the use of social media to engage youth.

"The most effective strategy to reach youth on and off reserve is through the use of technology and by engaging them in lands and resources activities. We want to let them know that the knowledge they bring to the table is important and valuable."

Moses says that over the past seven or eight years, Biigtigong Nishnaabeg has been developing a land-based curriculum.

"The students are responding very well to that."

Biigtigong Nishnaabeg had two students working as environmental monitors through a restructured summer student program.

"They participated in on-site tours. We went to different exploration sites, forestry, and operations. They got the full scope of what is going on in our territory."

By the end of the summer, one student who was going into the health field is now considering the environmental field because she knows that she is able to help added Moses.

Moses talked about a moose monitoring app.

"This lets land users track or record where they sight moose as well as moose indicators such as scat. This becomes really important because our land users are on the

ground. They are the ones who notice firsthand the changes in moose population. We may not agree with how MNR tracks moose, but by using this app, our community can directly monitor it. Then we can go back to the table with the MNR and say, 'This isn't true what you are saying. We have people on the ground who notice the changes are happening'," explained Moses. "We also do values mapping or land use and occupancy mapping. This is a very significant project we have been doing for the past 25 years. The maps we come out with are very powerful. I use it everyday when working with industry when I make decisions about mining and forestry. That is protecting our values. When you have the technology to produce a map for the ministry, they are so much more responsive."

Biigtigong Nishnaabeg is also in the process of producing 2,000 hours of audible language emersion.

"Community members, youth, Elders – everybody has the opportunity to learn our language. We are losing Elders at an accelerated rate. The language is going to disappear soon."

Candace Neveau from Baawaatingong First Nation said she is a proud language learner who is prioritizing the Indigenous worldview and Indigenous teachings.

"As young people, we have to look at what we are inventing alongside with our ancestral knowledge. That's key to the solutions."

Neveau co-created Baawaating Water Protectors based in Sault Ste. Marie.

"We're focused on engaging Indigenous people in our community, but also the greater population, to become aware of our water sources, what's going on, contamination, everything for helping people. Like helping people be aware of their own personal health. Such as where nutrients come from, whether it's the soil, and taking the time to advocate for Mother Earth. We are grassroots and very passionate," explains Neveau. "At the Baawaating Water Protectors, we notice that as [people are] healing from inter-

generational trauma, people are struggling with addictions. When it comes to water protection, it gives them something to focus on and creating solutions. It gives them purpose and a sense of identity. It really helps."

The panel included Elders Terry Bouchard of Red Rock Indian Band, Leroy Dolson from Munsee Delaware Nation and Mike Esquega Sr. from Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek.

"We'll be the next on the list of endangered species," says Elder Bouchard.

Elder Bouchard says that we must engage with the earth with the next seven generations in mind.

"Long before the Europeans came here, the waters flowed. The rivers, they managed themselves since time began. The forests out there, they manage themselves, since time immemorial."

Elder Leroy Dolson, of the Wolf Clan, was asked about his legacy. Elder Dolson spoke of leading a good life with a healthy natural diet on the land.

"I always thought I was lucky. We never had hydro and no telephone. We always worked hard. We had cattle, chickens. If we got hungry, we had 50 acres of bush behind the house, we would just go and get a rabbit or a squirrel or shoot a deer, or shoot a pheasant and have a good meal."

Elder Dolson gave encouragement to the youth and all members of First Nations, "to learn our history and to record it and to revitalize the language."

Elder Esquega extolled work experience for youth and praised them for persevering and succeeding.

"I congratulate anyone who can go through the system, get a good education and get a good job. We have to try to leave something better for our kids today and tomorrow."

The Anishinabek Nation Lands and Resources department Director Jason Laronde from Nipissing First Nation explains how the annual Lands and Resources Forum has been growing throughout the past three years.

"[Treaties Recognition Week] is every

first week in November. The forum for the most part, represents and supports discussions related to those treaties. At our first event, we talked about the Dish with One Spoon Treaty Belt. Then we moved to the Two Row Wampum at the following year's event. It symbolized our discussions related to that. This year, we are talking about the Treaty of Niagara, which is fundamental to our relationship with the government. Nipissing is also considered a nation of people just like the Odawa, Chippewas, Mississauga and so on, and have references that tie into the Treaty of Niagara Belt. We are honouring aspects of what those Treaties meant back then and today."



Candace Neveau from Baawaatingong First Nation co-created Baawaating Water Protectors which challenges the colonial structure damaging Mother Earth.



Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Glen Hare and Canada's Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Carolyn Bennett met in Ottawa on Nov.26 to discuss the draft Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement.

Anishinabek Nation leadership and Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister meet in Ottawa

By Cindy Males

OTTAWA—Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Glen Hare and regional leadership met with Canada's Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Carolyn Bennett in Ottawa on Nov. 26 to discuss the plan to improve social economic conditions for Anishinabek citizens including, the draft Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement. Minister Bennett spoke about the Anishinabek Nation and all their hard work on the new education arrangement and says she speaks highly about the Anishinabek Nation's efforts during her coast-to-coast-to-coast travels. "This meeting is a chance for me to say thank you," she added. "We need more of that type of face-to-face meeting," says

Grand Council Chief Hare. " (The federal government) have to consult with our leadership. They're decision makers and so is she." Where the Anishinabek Nation reclaimed control of First Nation education resulting in the displacing sections of the Indian Act covering education, the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement would bring First Nations out from under the paternalistic Indian Act, by removing certain sections pertaining to band lists, elections, and band council governance. The Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement covers four main law-making areas: to preserve, promote and develop the use of Anishinabek culture and language; leadership selection; citizenship; and the

management and operation of government. First Nations who ratify the Governance Agreement will be able to develop their own election laws and develop their own citizenship laws. The agreement will also recognize the First Nations and the Anishinabek Nation as governments with the same legal status and capacity of other governments. The supporting fiscal agreement will provide for increased funding transfers between Canada, the Anishinabek Nation and its member First Nations for the governance related functions. Negotiations are near complete with community consultations and engagement expected to begin this winter in preparation for community ratification.

Additionally, an intergovernmental forum will be established with Canada to discuss matters of importance to the First Nations. "The Anishinabek Nation is an excellent example of determined leadership which will advance the social and economic conditions of their citizens," Minister Bennett. "I look forward to a future leadership meeting to keep advancing these important issues on their path to self-determination." "We're so close, but we still have a lot to do," says Grand Council Chief Hare. Anishinabek Nation leadership and the Minister spoke about another intergovernmental meeting for March 2019; however, a date was not finalized during the Ottawa meeting.

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the New Year!





Treaties Recognition Week 2018



Anishinabek Nation hosts Treaty Recognition Week education event

Anishinabek Nation leaders and educators highlighted treaty education resources at a living library event held at the Harris Learning Library at the Nipissing University and Canadore College campus today to kick off Treaties Recognition Week in Ontario.

"Our treaty education resources for elementary and high school classrooms help students learn about the treaty relationship," said Grand Council Chief Glen Hare. "Younger students will learn about what an agreement is and older students will learn that treaties are legally-binding and sacred agreements that set out the rights, responsibilities and relationships of First Nations and federal and provincial governments."

Treaties Recognition Week is celebrated during the first week of November every year. It was introduced in 2016 to honour the importance of treaties and to help Ontarians learn more about treaty rights and treaty

relationships.

Joining Grand Council Chief Hare was Nipissing First Nation Chief Scott McLeod who spoke about harvesting its relationship to treaty.

Maurice Switzer of Alderville First Nation and author of books *We are all Treaty People* and *Nation to Nation*, spoke about the Treaty of Niagara and the recent Williams Treaty settlement.

Kelly Crawford of M'Chigeeng First Nation, and author of the elementary and secondary teachers guide as well as Alex Shares his Wampum Belt and Dakota Talks about Treaties spoke about the importance of treaty education in the classrooms.

Treaty education resources are available in English and French and books are available in English, French and Anishinaabemowin. Resources can be ordered through the Anishinabek Nation Head Office by emailing: orders@anishinabek.ca.

Maurice Switzer spoke to some 80 people in attendance at the Nov. 5 Treaties Recognition Week kick-off event held at the Nipissing University/Canadore Campus Harris Learning Library. Helpers Alex Hebert and Dakota Bellissimo held up the Treaty of Niagara wampum belt - an agreement that was to last as long as the rivers flowed, grass grows and the sun rises. The Treaty of Niagara is a peace and friendship treaty from 1764 and after this agreement, 10,000 warriors joined British forces in the War of 1812 and were instrumental in repelling American invaders.

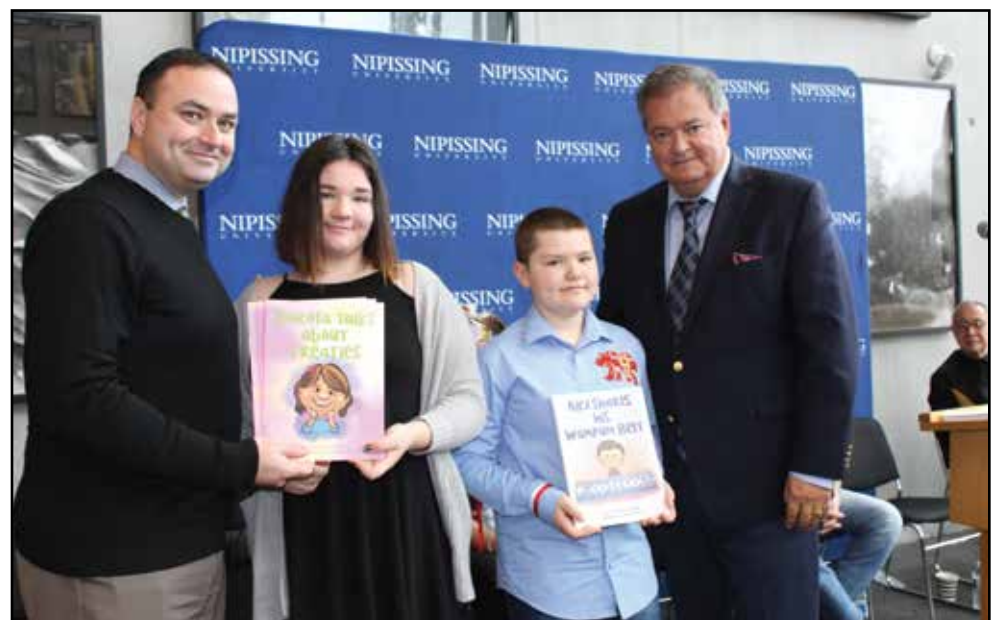
- Photos by Marci Becking



Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Glen Hare talked about remembering the veterans and that the treaties created alliances between the First Nations and settlers. He reminded everyone that we need to talk about treaties every day and not just one week of the year.



Kinoomaadziwin Education Body Director Kelly Crawford said that when she first took Maurice Switzer's book *'We are all Treaty People'* to schools, a student was upset; wondering: why am I just learning this now? It will take seven generations to unravel everything that was done from the last seven generations. Crawford, author of the teachers guides for *'We are all Treaty People'* and *'Gdoo-Sastamoo Kii Mi'* says that teachers aren't sure how to approach treaty education and through teacher trainings and the kits, they feel more comfortable in doing so.



Dakota Bellissimo of Nipissing First Nation and Alex Hebert of Dokis First Nation present Shawn Chorney, Vice President Strategic Enrolment, Indigenous and Student Services for Canadore College and Dr. Mike Degagne, President of Nipissing University with books for the Harris Learning Library. Dakota Talks about Treaties and Alex Shares his Wampum Belt are both available in English, French and Anishinaabemowin.

Williams Treaty settlement looks huge in headlines

By Maurice Switzer

ALDERVILLE FIRST NATION – Land claim settlements always look huge in headlines.

“Historic \$1.1-Billion Williams Treaty settlement signed in Rama”, was a typical title for many print and online news reports attracting public attention on Nov. 17.

For Ruby Marsden Hicks, the resolution of a 95-year-old injustice translates into about 15 months rent she won't have to worry about paying at her Peterborough retirement home. She was one of an estimated 500 Alderville First Nation members who travelled to the community centre to pick up their per capita distribution cheques in person.

“It was a long time coming,” says Marsden Hicks, the only current Alderville member and perhaps the only living member of all seven Mississauga and Chippewa First Nations who was alive when the federal and provincial governments imposed the Williams Treaties on them in 1923. “It would have really helped Ma and Pa.”

“Ma and Pa” were Moses Muskrat Marsden, Alderville First Nation Chief from 1905 to 1909, and his wife Nellie Orma Franklin. Ruby, the youngest and only survivor of their 13 children, remembers her parents' struggle to make ends meet after leaving their reserve – and their Indian status – for what they hoped would be a brighter future for themselves and their family.

She recalls growing up in the little village of Lakefield, where she was teased at school for being part of the first “Indian” family in the community. They rented a farmhouse until Moses parlayed his carpentry skills into enough cash to purchase a lot for their own home.

That was about 1919 – the year Ruby was born – and “they were asking \$300 for it,” she recalls. “My Dad always said they never thought an Indian could come up with that much money!”

Her parents spent most of their 64 years of married life in the little mortar and field-stone house Moses built on that lot.

They never enjoyed such luxuries as indoor plumbing, running water, or central heating. Nellie cooked family dinners on a woodstove, had a pump in her little kitchen, and lined the dirt walls of her root cellar with preserves.

Marsden Hicks remembers her father continuing his advocacy for Indigenous rights long after he had left life on the reserve.

“He couldn't write very well – (he ran away from Alnwick Industrial Training School when he was 8) – so he dictated letters to newspapers and politicians to my mother for her to write.”

They maintained close ties with family members and friends in Alderville, and Moses attended the meeting on Nov. 19, 1923, when the three members of the Williams Treaty commission met with the community's “headmen” to try and convince them to sign away their rights to some 20,000 square miles of central Ontario land.

“The Indians only wanted to know if they would still have their hunting and fishing rights,” Moses would write years later. “And when they were told they would, they signed.”

The Indian Act of the day forbade First Nations to hire lawyers to pursue their interests or protect their rights.

Included on the agenda of the official Nov. 17 treaty settlement ceremony at Casino Rama were apologies by federal and provincial governments for lying about the guarantee of those harvesting rights, a deliberate untruth that resulted in countless members of the signatory First Nations being persecuted and prosecuted over the years for “breaking the law”.

“We are sorry,” Carolyn Bennett, federal minister of Crown/Indigenous Relations, told Chiefs from the seven Williams Treaty First Nations, noting that what academics have termed the worst treaty in Canadian history “continued injustices, provided insufficient compensation and inadequate reserve lands...and failed to recognize and protect your treaty rights.”

Elder Doug Williams, a former Curve Lake First Nation Chief, recalls some tactics community members had to resort to in order to continue providing food for their families.

“One of our favourite tricks was to plan our fishing expeditions for Saturday nights – we knew the game wardens would be watching Hockey Night in Canada!”

Ruby Marsden Hicks did not regain her Indian status until 1986. Her parents had both died before a change to the discriminatory membership provisions of the Indian Act would have reinstated the status they lost by leaving their reserve.

After accepting her long-overdue treaty cheque at the Alderville Community Centre, she agreed that the First Nations were wise in retaining a sizable portion of the settlement for future investments in land and community development.

“That kind of money can disappear pretty fast,” she says.

The \$1.1 billion settlement amounts to \$85 an acre for the land which the Crown claims was “surrendered” by the terms of the Williams Treaties, from the shore of Lake Ontario to Lake Nipissing in the north, from Lake Huron east to the Ottawa River.

Property in that area currently sells for between \$12,000 and \$15,000 per acre.



Naomi Taylor, coordinator for the Alderville First Nation Williams Treaty per capita distribution process, presents a cheque to Ruby Marsden Hicks, the only Alderville member who was alive when the treaty was executed in 1923. – Photo by Maurice Switzer

**Know a retailer not honouring
the PST exemption?
Call 1-866-668-8297
(1-866-ONT-TAXS)**

Apply today!

Anishinabek Educational Institute

POST-SECONDARY PROGRAMS

Diploma	Certificate
Native Community Worker	Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
Native Early Childhood Education	First Nation Child Welfare Advocate
Practical Nursing	Pre-Health Sciences
Social Services Worker	Personal Support Worker

Registration is free! Contact us today @ 1-800-334-3330 aeipostsecondary.ca
*In Partnership with Accredited Ontario Colleges

Anyone can apply!

Like us on Facebook



4TH
Annual

Anishinabek Nation Health Conference

Aabideg kwii-zhowendaasiitomaanaa gdoo-jijaakominaa wii-noojimoying

"We need to be kind to our spirit to heal"

JANUARY 22, 23, 24, 2019

Quattro Hotel and Conference Centre, Sault Ste. Marie, ON



BOB GOULAIS
Master of Ceremonies

Bob Goulais, an Anishinaabe from Nipissing First Nation, is a well-known speaker, traditional teacher, facilitator and Master of Ceremonies, providing cultural context, history and traditional knowledge to diverse audiences across Canada.

Bob is a second-degree member of the Three Fires Midewiwin Lodge, a traditional society of the Anishinaabe (Ojibway, Odawa and Pottawatami) people. He is a strong advocate for the retention and proliferation of the Anishinaabemowin (Ojibway language) and Anishinaabe culture.

Bob is a well-versed and experienced senior executive and consultant having provided over 20 years of service to industry, not-for-profit and Indigenous organizations. Currently, Mr. Goulais is President and Senior Principal of Nbisiiing Consulting Inc. a boutique firm that he founded in 2015.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dr. Darrel Manitowabi - History of Gambling within Indigenous Communities •
Indigenous Diabetes Health Circle • Carol Hopkins, Thunderbird Foundation - Mental
Health & Substance Use • Sara Mainville, Olthuis Kleer Townshend - First Nation Legal
Perspective on Cannabis • Amanda Mitchell, Indigenous Services Canada - Jordan's
Principle • Christi Belcourt & Isaac Murdoch - Strengthen our Connection to the Land

WORKSHOP PRESENTATION TOPICS

Traditional Teaching & Healthy Pregnancy • A Mother's Journey Through Pediatric Cancer •
The Healing Dress • Traditional Medicines • Cancer Care • Non-Insured Health Benefits •
Mental Health Crisis Teams • Traditional Ways of Understanding Social Work and Mental Health
• Practical Tools for Conversations with Youth about HIV/AIDS • Digital Health: A First Nations
led Strategy in Ontario • Jordan's Principle • Traditional Teaching • Our Learning Journey
Together First Nation's Engagement with Public Health • Ensuring Wellness in the Gladue
Report Process • Working Together to Build Strong Work Relationships

Early Registration/Social • Sweatlodge • Dinner and Traditional
Teaching - Knowledge Sharing and Focus on Renewing "ME"
Heroes in Health • Yoga • Water Ceremony



FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT
Cynthia Roy, Conference Coordinator
Ph: 705-497-9127, ext. 2253
Email: cynthia.roy@anishinabek.ca