

Fort William First Nation

# Economic Development



**Community Engagement Session**  
**May 2022**

# Bess LeGarde

## Consultation/Liaison Officer

Boozhoo, Hello

I am 34, mother of two young boys, grew up and currently living within Fort William First Nation. I graduated with a Post-Secondary Education Diploma in Law & Security. I have worked for our community for over ten years in several positions. Powwows, Ceremonies, and traditional crafting and knowledge are a huge part of my life.

In my new position I would like to implement more communication, community engagement sessions and advocate for our community by building relationships with businesses and our people. My strong traditional knowledge is an asset I carry when protecting our lands and resources. I am humbled to take on this role and look forward to working for you. Do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns you may have at 252-7038 or [besslegarde@fwfn.com](mailto:besslegarde@fwfn.com)

Miigwetch!



# Anemki Wajiw

## Mount McKay Scenic Lookout

### Toll Booth

- Seasonal Operations - May - Nov 2022
- 1 full-time staff, 4 part-time staff

### Anemki Wajiw Revitalization Project

- Oct 2021 applied for funding to FedNor
- FedNor approved phase 1 of application, feasibility study needed for phase two to complete application.
- Approached council for \$50,000.00 to have feasibility study completed by TBT Engineering
- Council approved Feasibility Study to be done
- Awaiting results of study



# Thunder Bird Wildlife

## Bird Rehabilitation

- Jenn Salo Founder, with the support of the city of thunder bay, friends of Chippewa, and Fort William First Nation, expanding bird rehabilitation for birds of prey
- Offering mentorship for youth to learn and engage with birds of prey
- Old Zoo at Chippewa Park location
- Fort William First Nation provided a letter of support and looking to financially contribute to the welfare of the project amount has not been determined.



# Waasigan Transmission Line

## Background

- Hydro One Networks Inc (Hydro One) is proposing to build the Waasigan Transmission Line from Thunder Bay to Atikokan.
- 8 First Nations affected formed a partnership called Gwayakocchigewin LP (GLP) to jointly engage with Hydro One and negotiate how their First Nation will participate and benefit from this project
- GLP Signed an initial engagement agreement with Hydro One in 2020 for participation/Ownership
- GLP to make official public announcement May 2022
- Each First Nation has a “Capacity Funding Agreement” which includes Consultation, Traditional Knowledge Study, Environmental monitoring



# Waasigan Transmission Line

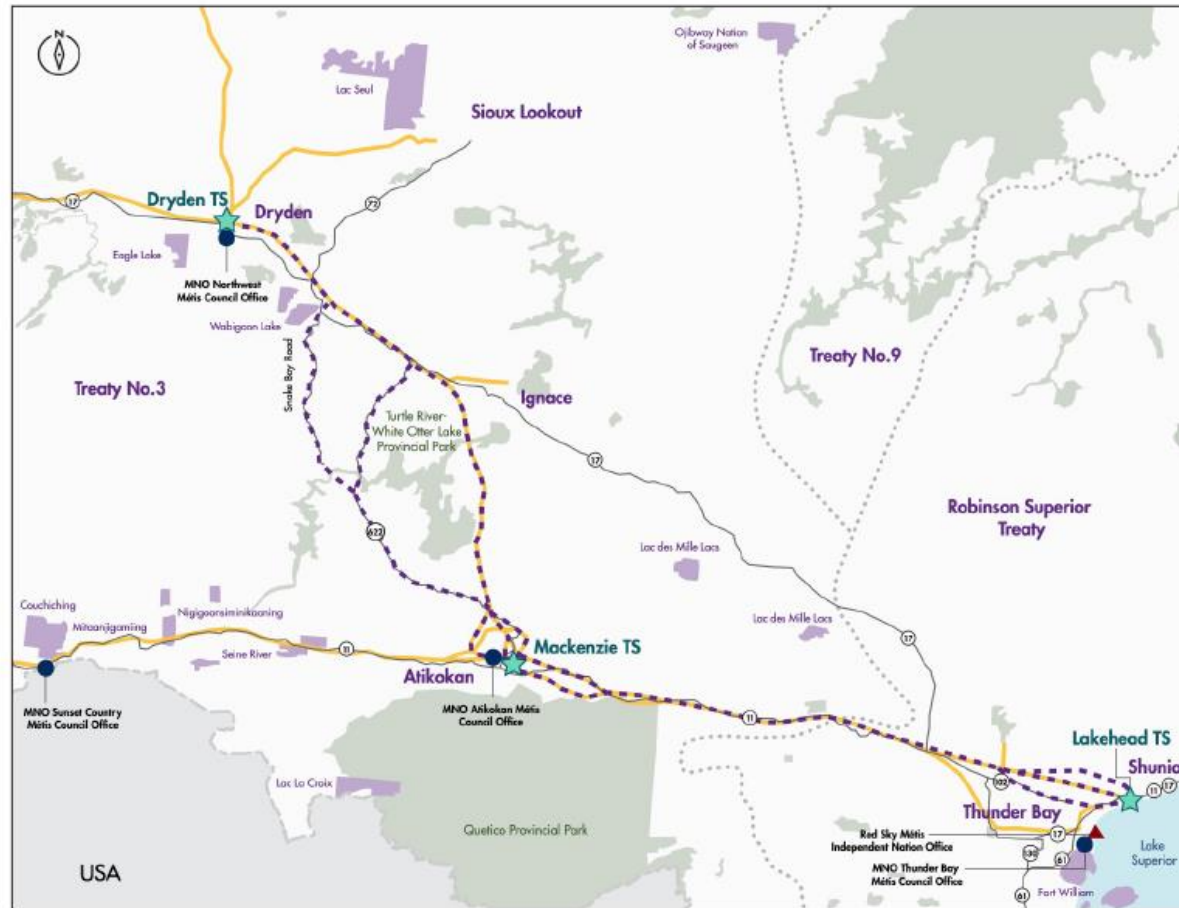
## Map – Potential Routes




### WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE

#### Map Legend

- Existing Transformer Station (TS)
- Alternative Routes
- Existing Transmission Line
- Highway
- International Border
- Red Sky Métis Independent Nation Office
- Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Council Office
- Treaty Boundary
- First Nation Reserve
- Provincial Park



# Waasigan Transmission Line

Description	Expected Timing
Environmental Assessment (EA) Start	April 2019
EA Terms of Reference Approval	February 2022
Environmental Studies (e.g. field work, data collection)	April 2022 - 2023  HYDRO ONE IS HERE
Selection of EPC Contractor (Forbes or Valard)	April 2022 – June 2022
Submit Final Environmental Assessment	2023
Leave to Construct Application	2023
All Approvals for Construction	By end of 2024
Construction	2025-2027

# Traditional Knowledge Study

## Waasigan Project

### Background

- Community Engagement Session on Traditional Knowledge Study held Dec 11, 2021 with Maawandoon and the University of Manitoba
- Gather Traditional Knowledge from community to start Data Collection and Value Mapping
- Traditional Knowledge interviews were held Dec 13-17<sup>th</sup> 2021, at the old ski chalet in FWFN where Maawandoon's office is located.
- University of Manitoba, will compile our data to create a useable data set for future consultation when protecting our lands and water.





Questions??

# Michelle Galoni

## Environmental Officer

I'm Michelle Galoni, 34 years old, born and raised in Hamilton.

My interests from a young age revolved around being outside and it later translated into my education and career. I have an honours BA in Geography from Nipissing University and my diploma as an Environmental Technician from Sir Sandford Fleming College.

I started working for Fort William in 2019 and am hoping to build on the environmental work currently being done to acquire more data to find remediation solutions for current areas of concern as well as creating more environmental capacity within the community to eliminate the need to outsource to external companies.



# Community Clean up

## Industrial Bin - Spring Clean Up

- Date is to be determined
- Industrial Bins at several locations throughout the community available for members to dump bulk items



# Waste Management/Recycling

- Currently registered for the switch to producer responsibility in 2026. While waiting for the switch looking to implement smaller scale recycling opportunity on reserve to help transition community.





# Forestry

- Acting as a point of contact for Resolute/MNDMNRF regarding Lakehead Forest/Dog River/Matawin Forest/Black Spruce Forest
  - [FMP Online \(gov.on.ca\)](http://gov.on.ca)
- Bi-weekly meetings



# Environmental Contaminants & Human Health

- Collecting water samples around the reserve at designated Areas of Concern to acquire baseline data to determine what contaminants exist, at what levels and how this could potentially affect human health. The goal is to collect baseline data to achieve this information and to determine what next steps are possible, whether it be remediation or a search for further funding for the collection of more data.
- This program is also utilized to help build capacity in the community by hiring a Fort William First Nation youth to learn. In this instance it was Erik Charlie hired as the Environmental Youth Worker for the duration of program until March 2023.
- Partnership with Lakehead University
- Solid waste dump samples
  - Fall 2021 - Completed
  - Spring 2022 - To be determined



# Erik Charlie

## Environmental Youth Worker (EYW)

### Role

- Collecting Data for environmental Contaminants and sampling areas of concern in our community
- GIS Mapping and data collection, interviewing community members for vital information in regards to our history.
- Drone training that will be utilized for GIS & Mapping our community.
- Creating and Delivering surveys to community members for crucial input.
- Working with experts in environmental field to progress our communities health and well-being.
- Assisting economic development team to complete tasks.



# Questions??



# Cheryl St James

## Economic Development Officer

### Mining

#### Clean Air Metals (CAM) (Thunder Bay North/Current Lake)

- This agreement is a Joint effort between Fort William First Nation, Red Rock Indian Band, and BZA (Rocky Bay).
- A Memorandum of Agreement was signed between the three communities in 2011
- We moved forward with a new signing of the memorandum and are near the end of negotiations which have been largely led by lawyer Kate Kempton

#### Impala (Lac Des Ille and Sunday Lake)

- A Community Benefits Agreement (CBA - otherwise known as an impact benefits agreement) has been on-going over the past year
- We are at the end of negotiations, and the agreement will be finalized by and examination of the document by our lawyers
- Document to be presented to council end of May 2022.
- Joint Venture Partnerships to date
- Donations to date

# Properties

## 33 Court Street - GIIWA ON COURT

- A Canada not-for-profit corporation was created through the collaboration for Fort William First Nation and Biigtagong Nishnawbig (Pic River) in November 2020 and was named GIIWA ON COURT
- The Corporation was formed to pursue an opportunity to purchase the Government of Canada surplus land and building at 33 Court Street South
- The Corporation has signed an “Agreement of Purchase & Sale”, and a “Framework Agreement”
- Each Community invested \$200,000.00 to date
- Joe Melisak of BDO Consulting was retained to do a pre-feasabilty study and provide financial guidance
- Fort William First Nation received a \$300,000.00 grant from TD Canada Trust and switched account from RBC to TD. BDO does the day to day books.
- CMHC will hold ownership of the building until GIIWA is prepared to take ownership May 31<sup>st</sup> 2022 (approx. date)
- Parking lot at the corner of Pearl Street and South Court street has been purchased for \$205,000.00 to serve as parking for 33 Court Street

## Renco Foods / Centennial Square

- Fort William First Nation is in the process of Financial and due diligence reviews in an effort to purchase Renco Foods and Centennial Square at a cost of \$9,000,000.00.
- Financing this project ourselves is in discussion, in an effort of saving the cost of paying interest to a lender.
- An inspection was performed at a cost of approximately \$14,000.00 - indicated building was well maintained, inspector to inspect roof when snow has gone.
- Presentation to council April 13<sup>th</sup> 2022 - BCR approving purchase.

## MTO Maintenance Contract (Snow Removal)

- Fort William First Nation has successfully entered into a highway snow removal contract with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO)
- Fort William First Nation have purchased a snow plow truck with a wing blade. GPS system to be added.
- Employs 2 full-time drivers and 2 part-time drivers. Contract pays \$950.00 per day.
- Overseen by public works department

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# Questions??