



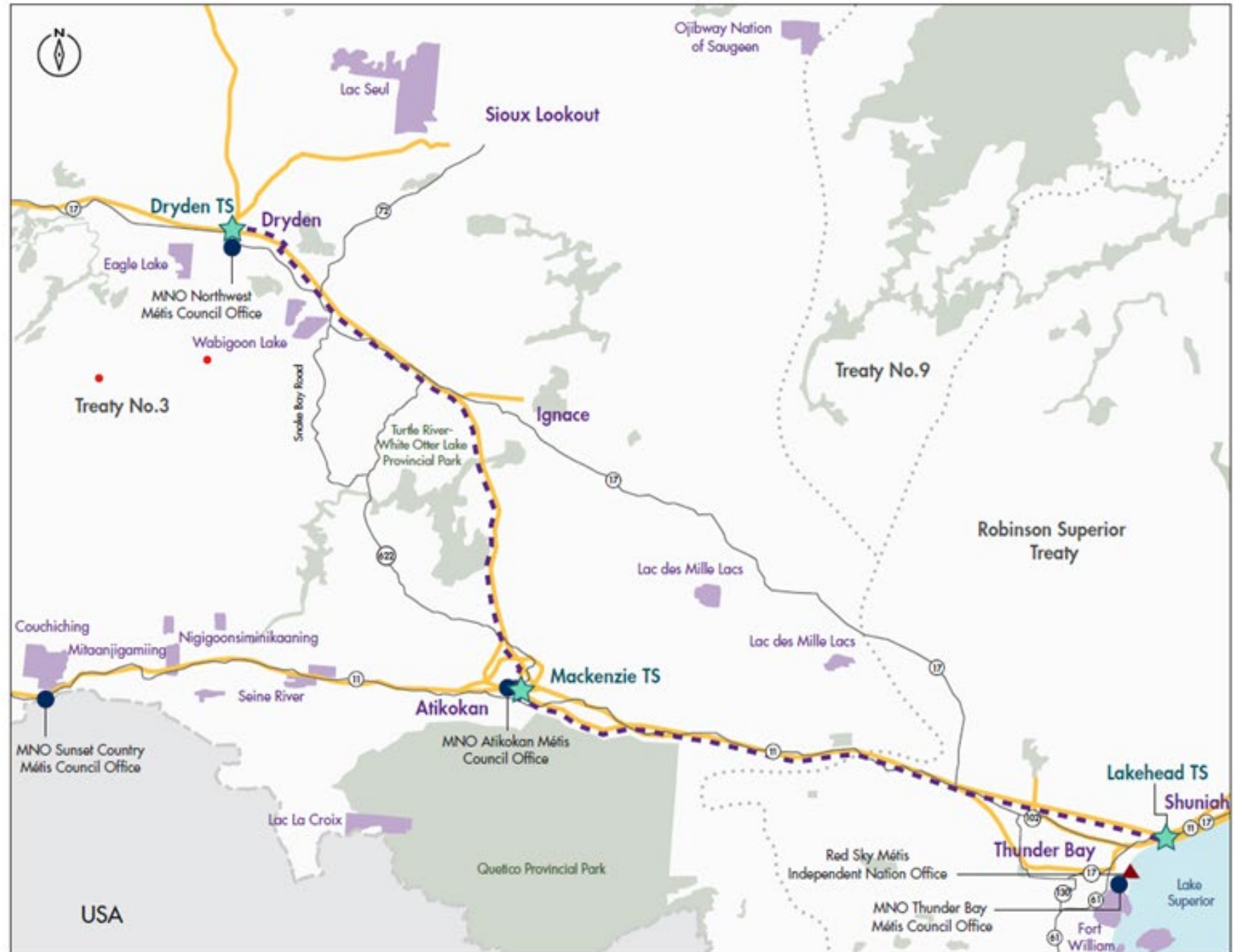
*Economic Development
Energy Sector Overview*



WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE

Map Legend

-  Existing Transformer Station (TS)
-  Selected Route
-  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

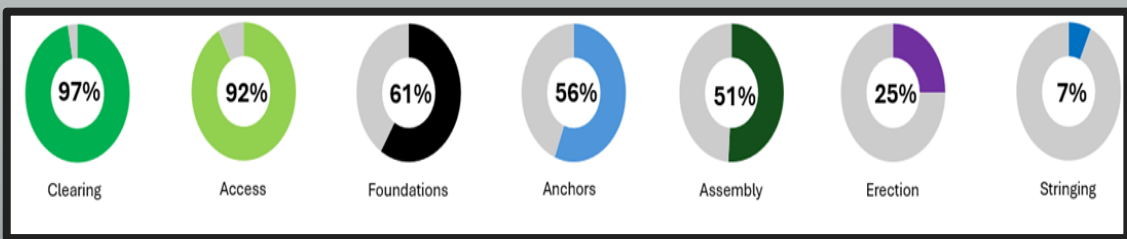


The Waasigan Transmission Line: Construction

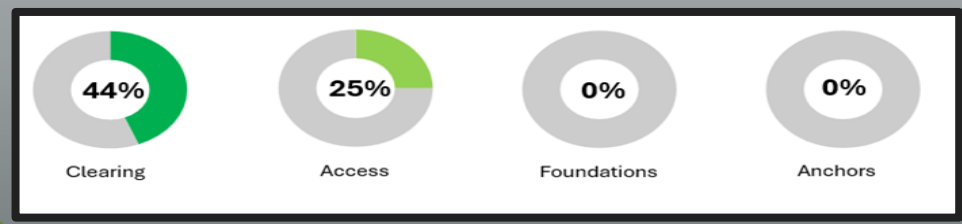
Phase 1 of the project will connect a double-circuit 230 kilovolt transmission line from Thunder Bay to Atikokan. Phase 2 of the project will connect a single-circuit 230 kilovolt transmission line from Atikokan to Dryden.

Phase 1 construction has made significant progress in 2025. Priorities for 2026 are to continue the momentum and advance stringing on phase 1 and continue clearing activities for phase 2.

Phase 1 Progress:



Phase 2 Progress:



The Waasigan Transmission Line: Opportunities

Valard remains committed to hiring indigenous workforce on the project. There are still opportunities on the project, such as apprenticeships. To date 2 apprentices are actively working on the project, with 4 more working towards an apprenticeship.

The construction workforce on the project is 38% indigenous workers.

There are still job opportunities as seen below:

- Equipment Operator
- Welder
- Mechanic
- Assembler
- Utility Person

If you are interested in applying, please send your resume to recruitment@cmo-fn.ca



Wind Farm: Proponents

While recent procurements have focused on capacity, which seeks forms of supply that can meet demand specifically during system peak hours, planning forecasts indicate both energy and capacity needs emerging in 2029 and beyond. Over the next few years, the IESO expects to run multiple RFP submission windows, each under a distinct request for proposals, under the umbrella of the LT2 RFP, to procure resources to meet system needs” (IESO 2025)

Fort William First Nation has recently seen a dramatic increase in requests for Consultation and Engagement in this Sector.

To date, a total of Nine (9) Proponent requests have been received by the Economic Development Team.

To engage with the proponents Fort William First Nation requires a Capacity Funding Agreement (CFA).

The CFA provides funding that allows the Nation to engage high level discussions and negotiation's along with archaeological and environmental assessments (Cultural Heritage Evaluations - CHE) at the proposed locations where data gathering towers (MET) are being erected.

Each proponent has an expressed goal to enter discussions regarding Partnership and/or Ownership participation with Fort William First Nation. Each proponent is listed below:

RES	Innergex
Capstone	New Horizon Energy
EDF Renewables	Potentia
Elemental Energy	Invenergy
Innerflex	More?



Wind Farm Next Steps

- Proponents were to submit proposals to IESO by October – December 2025.
- Contracts are to be awarded early 2026

The Fort William First Nation Development Corporation Industrial Land site is located in the City of Thunder Bay, District of Thunder Bay, Ontario, on private lands owned by the Fort William First Nation Development Corporation. The land is currently leased by SkyPower Global, who own the Solar Farm.

Fort William First Nation has no ownership in the Ten (10) MW Ground Mount Solar Energy Facility. The project is a Solar Farm, with interconnecting 3-phase, 27.6kV line that runs directly through the site. Presently the land is zoned as 'Heavy Industrial'.

Project Proponent was originally Sequoia Energy, who were directly purchased by SkyPower Global. Fort William First Nation Development Corporation has a Land Lease agreement with the Solar Farm Operator, only.

Solar Farm: Overview



Battery Storage: Overview

- LT2 is an IESO-led procurement to secure 14 TWh of energy and 1,600 MW of capacity over four years, with two streams: LT2(e) for energy (e.g., wind, solar) and LT2(c) for capacity (e.g., battery storage, natural gas). Proposal submission windows every Q4 for next 4 years, starting December 2025 for LT2(c)
- Potential Renewables reached out sharing their Proposed Pineview Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). Below is an overview of the project.
 - Storage up to 75MW/600MWh
 - Project lands have been secured
 - Close to electrical interconnection with grid capacity
 - Near urban loads
 - Natural resources zoned lands
 - Buildable Topography

Monitoring Equipment



Ontario Power Generation: Kakabeka

Located on the Kaministiquia river, 30km west of Thunder Bay, the KFGS has been in operation since 1906. OPG is replacing or modifying/upgrading aging infrastructure including the powerhouse, turbines, surge tank building, penstocks, existing access road and parking area. Stuart Olsen was selected as the contractor to carry out the construction that started spring 2025. Fort William First Nation expressed concerns and objections to the project, OPG continues to move forward on the project regardless. OPG and Stuart Olsen had met with Leadership on the matter, and an agreement could not be made.

There have been multiple incidents on the project since it began construction in spring 2025.



Cultural Resource Management (CRM) at Fort William First Nation

The CRM Team was developed in response to Federal Government Legislation (Duty to Consult and Accommodate) which requires Industry Proponents to engage with First Nations in order to 'Reconcile' lost, stolen or otherwise damaged cultural heritages in order or mitigate further losses.

The FWFN CRM Team relies on a variety of tools to protect cultural heritages:

Traditional Knowledge/ Land Use (TK/LU) Study: Data is accumulated through interviews with Band Members; Elders, Harvesters, Hunters, Fishers, etc.

This data is uploaded to a GIS Database and used when an Industry proponent submits a Permits Request to the Ministry (MoM, MNRF, MECP, etc.). The Permit is sent to Chief and then forwarded CRM team for Due Diligence Efforts. The CRM team conducts an 'overlay' of the proposed project site with the TK Data to determine project impacts on Cultural Heritages, if any.

Should impacts on CRM be found, a 'Letter of Concern' is submitted and meeting is scheduled with the Ministry and proponent to find solutions to mitigate or eliminate the damage to existing Cultural Heritages.

A Indigenous Engagement Plan is developed and includes meetings with First nations Representatives.

Note that the CRM team is comprised of Band Member Environmental Program Graduates and uses equipment purchased through funding from proponents and governments. That includes a Truck/Trailer /UTV plus specialized equipment like a Drone, YSI Water Testing Systems, GIS Platform (Hardware) and ESRI (GIS Software)

Cultural Resource Management (CRM) – Next Steps

Lakehead University/COTS

Current Status:

- Excavations have started along the river for the development of a new campus building despite all the archaeological sites along the river and the fact that the site is located on the cusp of a relic shoreline.

Next steps:

- Draft a letter to Hugh Briggs and Matthew Boyd @ LU - for Chief to sign.
- Show COTB the potential of the relic shoreline when they propose a permit.

Cumins Site/Ontario Parks

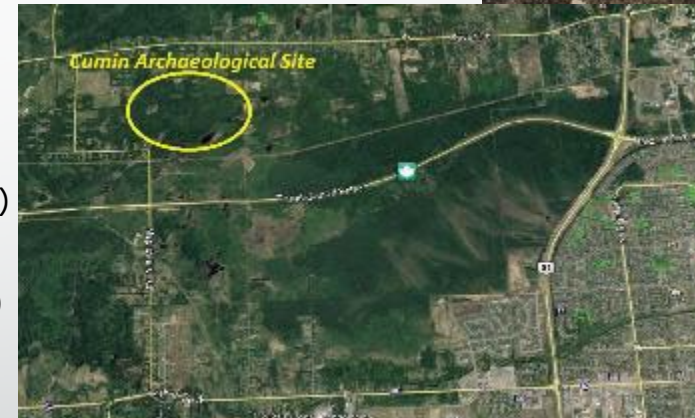
Next Steps:

- Give a name to this site
- Reach out to Brunos to get approval to access site on opposite side of sandpit
- Reach out to Maria@ MNRF for beaver/dam removal protocol (Geordie, Leo/Lance)
- Reach out to Kelsey Anger about Lidar (Already has relationship w/Dave Norris)
- Reach out to MECP/MNRF about a possible drone survey/flight above site (photos)

Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital (LPH)

Next Steps:

- Book a meeting with Cheryl St. James and Christina Esquimaux to determine next steps and action items for this site
- Respond to Kelsey Angers Archive Emails
- Is the Restorative Justice Department going to be involved in archival work?





**Fort William
First Nation**

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out:

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