

# Lands & Governance

*Caring for our lands. Strengthening our governance.*



**Fort William  
First Nation**

# Why Lands & Governance Matters

- Our lands are central to who we are
- Decisions today shape future generations
- Governance protects our rights and responsibilities

*Lands and governance are about people, history, and the future.*



# What the Team Does

- Manages FWFN lands and land records
- Supports leadership and decision-making
- Develops land and governance policies
- Coordinates permits, mapping, and planning



# How We Work

- Guided by Anishinaabe values
- Grounded in Treaty and inherent rights
- Transparent and accountable
- Community-focused and forward-looking

*This work blends tradition with modern governance.*



# Our Treaty & Territory

- Signatory to the **Robinson Superior Treaty (1850)**
- Traditional territory across Lake Superior region
- Shared lands and waters with neighbouring Nations
- Where three treaty areas meet



# Anishinaabe Stewardship

- Anishinaabe are the original people of this land
- Seasonal use of hunting, fishing, and gathering areas
- Nee-bing summer gatherings held on today's reserve
- Stewardship based on respect and balance



# Land Loss & Resilience

- 1905 railway expropriation:
  - Entire village displaced
  - 1,600 acres taken
- Loss of farming lands changed our way of life
- Community adapted and rebuilt

*Our governance today responds to these historic impacts.*



# Governance Today

- ~2,800 members (on and off reserve)
- Chief and 12 Councillors
- Councillors hold portfolios
- Elections every four years



# Managing Our Lands Today

- Residential and commercial land allocations
- Certificates of Possession & Occupation
- Land use planning and permitting
- Protecting land for community benefit

*Lands are managed fairly and responsibly.*



# Lands Supporting Opportunity

- Commercial office developments
- Industrial partnerships (stud mill)
- Renewable energy (solar park)
- Lands used to support jobs and services



# Working With the Community

- Community input shapes decisions
- Clear processes and communication
- Supporting member questions and needs
- Building trust through transparency



# Looking Ahead

- Stronger land policies and tools
- Improved data and mapping systems
- Sustainable development planning
- Continued protection of FWFN lands

*Planning today for the next seven generations.*



# Contact Information

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*Rooted in our history. Responsible in the present. Focused on the future.*



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