

# Wataynikaneyap Power & Opiikapawiin Services

## Indigenous Participation Update

Photo Credit: Miriam Cook

### Opiikapawiin and Wataynikaneyap

Opiikapawiin Services LP provides a variety of services to Wataynikaneyap Power through a service agreement. Opiikapawiin is also providing support and facilitation to Wataynikaneyap's Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Contractor Valard, as they engage with the Participating First Nations on Indigenous Participation activities. Opiikapawiin is owned 100% by 24 First Nations.

Opiikapawiin, Wataynikaneyap and Valard are working together to maximize Indigenous participation on the transmission line project.

- Opiikapawiin's services include:
- employment and training,
  - community readiness,
  - business readiness,
  - community engagement, and
  - communication.



\* Schedule is subject to change

#### LOOK INSIDE FOR:

- Updates on Opiikapawiin activities including the current status of Indigenous participation and engagement
- Upcoming opportunities including training and employment

### Construction Update!

Valard began work on the Project in October of 2019. Some of the areas that have been progressing include:

- Design and Procurement of Materials
- Surveying and Clearing of the Right of Way
- Camp Setup and Services
- Foundation Construction
- Tower Assembly
- Tower Erection
- Substation Preparation

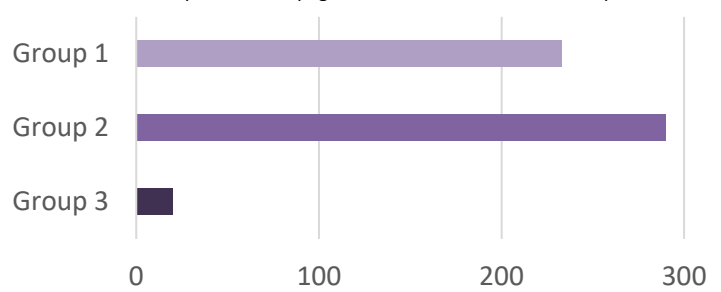
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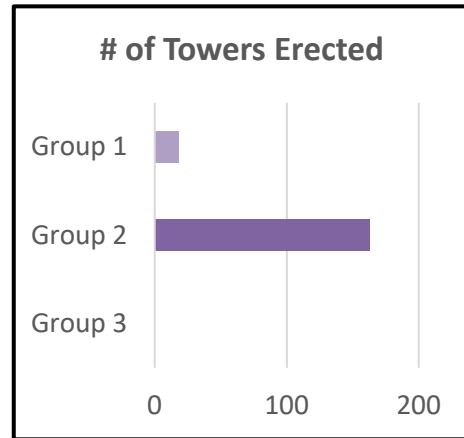
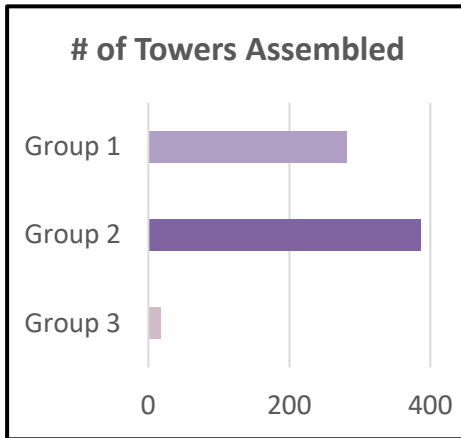
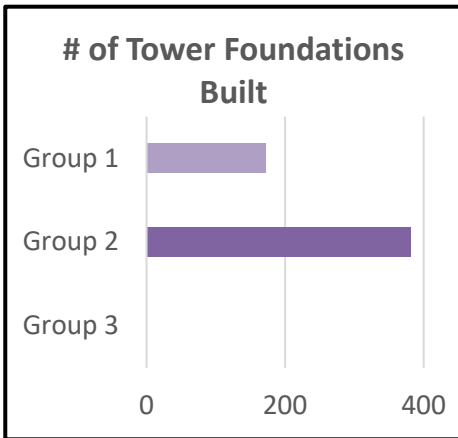
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#### Kilometres of Right of Way Cleared up to October 3, 2020

\* See map on the last page for the location of each "Group"



Construction Update – up to October 3, 2020



\* See map on the last page for the location of each "Group"

COVID-19 and the Project

- During these unprecedented times, Wataynikaneyap Power LP ("Wataynikaneyap Power") is entering into the construction phase to build critical infrastructure to connect remote First Nation communities to the electricity grid (the "Project").
- The objective of Wataynikaneyap Power is to continue with aspects of the Project that limit the risk to health and safety, to keep the Project on time and on budget, and to protect shareholder equity.
- Wataynikaneyap Power is focused on the health and safety of its employees, partners, contractors, member First Nation communities and the general public.
- Wataynikaneyap Power follows the most up-to-date medical advice provided by the federal and provincial government in its own measures to help limit the spread of COVID-19.



*Helicopter holding the tower in place while the ground crew connects guy wires.*

What is Indigenous Participation?

Participating First Nations will be actively involved, control, and will own development in their homelands to create meaningful, long-term benefits for their citizenship.

Participation benefits include:

- |                                 |                                  |                                |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Ability to Connect Renewables | • Entrepreneur Opportunities     | • New First Nations Businesses |
| • Business Support Services     | • Environmental Monitoring       | • Ownership and Profits        |
| • Capacity Building             | • First Nations Supply Contracts | • Partnerships                 |
| • Confidence Building           | • Industry Expertise             | • Pride of Ownership           |
| • Control                       | • Job Readiness                  | • Promoting Language           |
| • Economic Development          | • Joint Ventures                 | • Skills Development           |
| • Enhance Existing Businesses   | • Meaningful Employment          | • Transferable Skills          |
|                                 | • Mentorship                     | • Work Experience              |

If you have further questions about Indigenous Participation, contact Lydia Big George, Indigenous Participation Manager: [l.bgeorge@oslp.ca](mailto:l.bgeorge@oslp.ca) Office: (807) 474-3300 ext. 202 Cell: (807) 630-1168.

## Education, Training and Capacity Building

Building capacity through meaningful participation is critical to the Project. Valard is expected to transition trainees into employment. Valard will be working with communities to address training gaps with job-specific training for the following roles: labourers, lattice labourers, survey assistants, environmental monitors, engineering technologists. If you have questions about training opportunities, please contact Laura Calmwind, Training Coordinator: [l.calmwind@oslp.ca](mailto:l.calmwind@oslp.ca) Office: (807) 474-3300 ext. 205 Cell: (807) 630.2196.

### Opiikapawiin Services Training to Date (up to October 1, 2020)

Opiikapawiin Services Training Program	Total # Trained	Opiikapawiin Services Training Program	Total # Trained
Introduction to Powerline Construction and Work Readiness	149	Mechanical Harvesting	20
Line Crew Ground Support Pre-Training and Information Session	10	Cross Cultural Awareness Training -- Two-day training for all employees from Watay Project Manager, OSLP, Owners Engineer, Advisors, Tribal Councils, Community Liaisons, & Valard participation.	132
Line Crew Ground Support	48		
Remote Cook and Camp Services	14	Cross-Cultural Awareness Refresher	8

### Valard Training to Date (up to end of September 2020)

Participating First Nations members working on the project will complete various training programs at the worksite. The type of training required depends on the work activities. More details are provided during the hiring process.

Valard Training Program	# of Participating First Nations Trainees	Valard Training Program	# of Participating First Nations Trainees
Alcohol and Drug Awareness for Workers 2018	108	Working at Heights	20
Electrical Safety Awareness	109	Basic Rigging and Hoisting	7
Hydraulic Safety Awareness	108	Mobile Crane Operator 0-8 Ton	5
Valard ES Orientation	109	Ontario Joint Health and Safety Committee Member Certification	6
Valard Safety Orientation	109	Powered Mobile Equipment, Aerial/Elevated Work Platform	7
Valard Wataynikaneyap Site Orientation	107	Poletop Rescue	5
WHMIS 2015 with GHS	100	Chainsaw Safety Awareness	5
Worker Health and Safety Awareness (4 steps)	91	Telecom Work Zone Traffic Control and Safety Course	5
Emergency First Aid	1	Traffic Control Person	6
Standard First Aid	11	IHSA Utility Work Protection Code	2
<b>Valard Training Program</b>	<b>Total # of Trainees</b>	Telecom Ladder Safety	2
Cultural Awareness (Full) **	24	Traffic Control Person Online	10
Cultural Awareness (Interim)	794		

\*\* Has not been fully implemented because of the constraints of COVID-19

## Training in Progress!

Mechanical Harvesting Equipment Operator and Powerline Right-of-Way Clearing training was delivered at a remote camp over five weeks. This training provided certification in Safety and Heavy Equipment Operation and was specifically designed to prepare participants for employment opportunities in the building of the Wataynikaneyap Power Line Project and the Powerline Sector. The program included training in Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) Worker Awareness, Chainsaw Safe Handling and Maintenance, SP102 Forest Fire Fighting, Standard First Aid, Working at Heights, and Forestry Heavy Equipment Operation in a harvesting environment.



*Wataynikaneyap CEO Margaret Kenequanash at the Mechanical Harvesting Training Graduation.*

*Fall 2020 graduates of the Mechanical Harvesting Equipment Operator and Powerline Right-of-Way Clearing Training. From Left to Right: Maria Beardy (Bearskin Lake), Jordan Thompson (Keewaywin), Jayde Peters (Pikangikum), Marty Neecan (Ojibway Nation of Saugeen), Frank Johnup (North Caribou Lake), Corey Linklater (Sandy Lake), Cody Martin (Wunnumin Lake), Paul (Norcat Trainer), Justus Sanderson (Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug), Creid Strang (Pikangikum), Chelsea McKay (Sachigo Lake)*

## Training and COVID-19

Opiikapawiin has developed a COVID-19 Pandemic Preparedness Plan to protect the health and safety of trainees participating in training programs. The plan provides details on how training can safely resume with trainees leaving the communities and returning when they have completed the training. Contact Laura Calmwind for further details.

### Upcoming Training Opportunities

Training Program	Offered by:	Training Dates	Details
Remote Cook and Camp Operations	OSLP	8 weeks TBD	14 trainees will be selected. Watch for posters and announcements.
Ganawenjigewin Environmental Protection Training	OSLP	4 weeks TBD	12 trainees will be selected. Watch for posters and announcements.



*The Line Crew Ground Support (LCGS) trainees observing Orange Shirt Day on September 30, to support and raise awareness of the impacts of the Residential School system. Miigwech!*

Future opportunities will include security guard training.

Employment

Employee Spotlight – Eileen Koostachin



Meet Eileen Koostachin! A member of Deer Lake First Nation, Eileen is a mother of five who lives in Dryden. A recent graduate of the Police Foundations program at Oshki-Wenjack, she started her employment at Synterra Securities in August 2020.

Eileen enjoys many aspects of the work she does in Security with Synterra and loves waking up to go to work each morning. She especially loves the new people and many friends that she has met so far on this journey, some of whom come from different places across the country to work at the camps. This includes the great cooks from all over Canada who bring new foods to the table for her to enjoy. Although the remote nature of this position may be a challenge for some, Eileen loves working in the bush in the surroundings where she grew up.

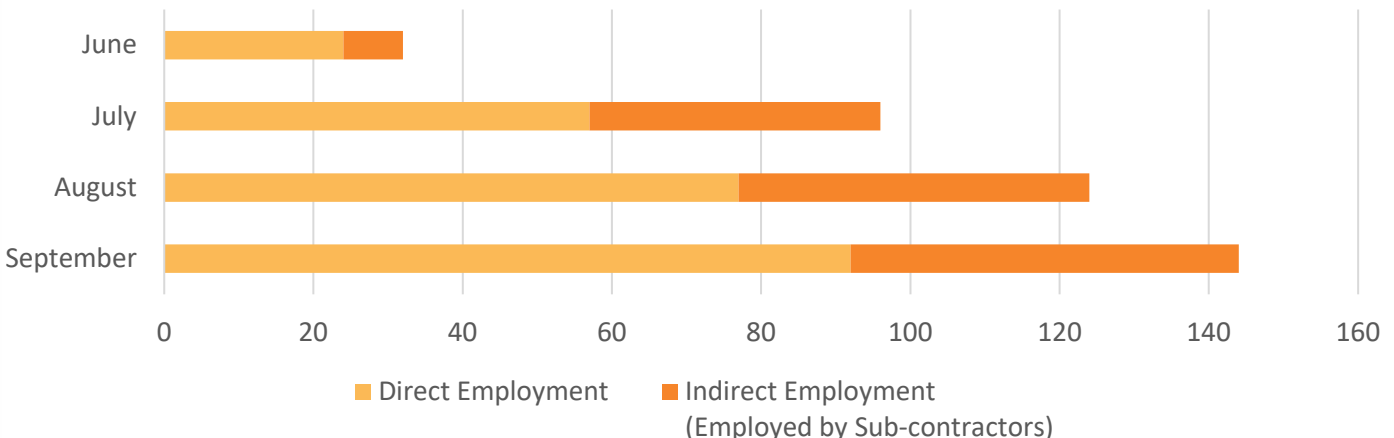
Having worked security for 15 years prior, as well as being a First Responder for Deer Lake First Nation, Eileen understands the importance of safety, and helping her colleagues and others in the community feel safe: “I will assist to the best of my ability to help get others through whatever it is they’re experiencing”.

Eileen’s experience graduating from Oshki-Wenjack was worth the effort and risk, as it opened doors for her that she didn’t know were there before. She encourages others who have what it takes to pull themselves forward and do this work, to stay on task and to keep going!

On the side, Eileen has a skillful hobby doing mechanical work. She is also a helper and giver to the elders and other members of her community -- especially when it comes to sharing traditional wild meats such as rabbit, fish, and moose meat. Miigwetch for sharing your story, Eileen!

Who Has Been Working?

Participating First Nation Employee Information  
June, July, August and September



The above includes any person who has charged time to the project.  
Not all sub-contractors have provided information.

Opiikapawiin is working with Valard and subcontractors to maximize employment opportunities for members of the 24 Participating First Nations. Submit a resume to [projectjobs@oslp.ca](mailto:projectjobs@oslp.ca) or [watay-resumes@valard.com](mailto:watay-resumes@valard.com). Better yet, see below to learn how to add yourself to the Labour Pool Database for the Project.

## Get Yourself into the Wataynikaneyap Labour Pool Database (LPD)

### Fill Out and Submit!



### Sign Up online!

- Find the Wataynikaneyap Labour Pool Questionnaire form at [www.wataypower.ca](http://www.wataypower.ca). In the top menu bar, go to "Project" then "Employment and Careers". **OR**
- Click "Sign Up" at the labour pool website: <https://wataypower.knack.com/labour-pool#home/>
- Scroll down to the Labour Pool Database section.
- Enter your email address and choose a password, then click "Submit".
- Fax/email completed forms to the contacts on the form.
- Once your account has been approved, login and click "Update My Profile" in the top right to enter your info

### Already in the Labour Pool Database? Don't forget to update your profile!

It is important that all members in this Database have an updated resumé uploaded to their profile.

Employers will have limited access to the LPD; they will be able to post jobs on the LPD. Participating First Nation members/users will be able to view jobs, build their resumé and apply to jobs by submitting resúmes directly to employers. It is best to keep resúmes concise and to the point, and to include details relevant to the job you're interested in.

 Don't Have a Resumé? Try the new  Resumé Builder (on the LPD site)!

**NEED HELP?** Ask your Community Liaison, or contact **Elaine Keesick, Indigenous Recruitment and Retention Advisor**, at [e.keesick@oslp.ca](mailto:e.keesick@oslp.ca) or cell (807) 633-7446.

## Active/Recent Job Postings

Position	Deadline	Details
<b>VALARD</b>		
Tower Assemblers	Ongoing	See job postings on the Valard-Wataynikaneyap Facebook page ( <a href="https://www.facebook.com/watayproject">https://www.facebook.com/watayproject</a> ) the Valard Wataynikaneyap website ( <a href="http://www.valard-watay.com">www.valard-watay.com</a> ) or the Opiikapawiin website ( <a href="https://www.oslp.ca/careers">https://www.oslp.ca/careers</a> ).  Forward resumes to: <a href="mailto:watay-resumes@valard.com">watay-resumes@valard.com</a> or <a href="mailto:projectjobs@oslp.ca">projectjobs@oslp.ca</a> . Questions? Call 780-986-6180
Indigenous Construction Liaison/Knowledge Holder	Until filled	
<b>NEW: Foundations Labourer, Fuel Truck Driver, Class A Driver</b>	Dec 31, 2020	
<b>NEW: Project Field QC, Lattice Steel Assembly/Erection JC</b>	Ongoing	
<b>YATAW CAMPS AND CATERING (JV Partner)</b>		
Camp Manager, Camp Administrator, Head Chef, Cooks, Bakers, Kitchen Support, Housekeeper, Maintenance	Ongoing	Send resumes and questions to <a href="mailto:cmilligan@outland.ca">cmilligan@outland.ca</a>
<b>SYNTERRA SECURITY SOLUTIONS (JV Partner)</b>		
Licensed Security Guard, Yard Attendant	Ongoing	Send resumes to: <a href="mailto:ann@synterra.ca">ann@synterra.ca</a>
<b>SIGFUSSON GROUP LP (JV Partner)</b>		
Skilled Labourer	Ongoing	Send resume and two references to: <a href="mailto:HR@sigfusson.ca">HR@sigfusson.ca</a> or <a href="mailto:gpower@sigfusson.ca">gpower@sigfusson.ca</a>
Dozer and Excavator Operators	Ongoing	
<b>NORTHERN MAT &amp; BRIDGE</b>		
Shuttle Operator	Ongoing	Send resumes and questions to <a href="mailto:Speterson@northernmat.ca">Speterson@northernmat.ca</a>

Business Readiness and Procurement of Goods and Services

Indigenous Businesses on the Project to Date

As of September 2020 there have been 27 Indigenous Joint Venture Partnership Businesses providing the following services to the project:

- Right of Way Clearing
- Drilling and Blasting
- Excavation
- Foundation Construction
- Road Construction
- Freight
- General Construction
- Aggregate Supply/Delivery
- Camp Services
- Rig Mats
- Portable Bridges
- Fuel Transport
- Water delivery
- Aviation
- Helicopter
- Internet
- Security
- Health and Safety Services

If you have further questions about business readiness, procurement and contracting opportunities, please contact: Richard Chukra, Indigenous Business Relationships Advisor - [r.chukra@oslp.ca](mailto:r.chukra@oslp.ca) Office: (807) 474-3300 x.212, Cell: (807) 630-8684 OR Ivan Donio, Indigenous Strategic Sourcing Advisor - [i.donio@oslp.ca](mailto:i.donio@oslp.ca) Office: (807) 474-3300 x.211 Cell: (807) 633-4856

Business Registry

Opiikapawiin Services LP maintains a business registry with information about Indigenous businesses. This information can be shared with potential contractors/subcontractors to help facilitate First Nation business opportunities. Email Ivan Donio at [i.donio@oslp.ca](mailto:i.donio@oslp.ca) for information or to register your participating First Nation business or joint venture.



Valard's Selection Process

Considerations:

- Ability to meet Health and Safety requirements
- Capacity to perform the required work scope
- Capabilities of the business align with the required skillsets
- Cost relative to budget and market

## PUBLIC BURN NOTICE

Valard Construction LP will be conducting wood and debris pile burning for the purpose of clearing the right-of-way for the Wataynikaneyap Powerline Project. Burning is to take place between October 15, 2020 to March 31, 2021. Burning will only occur when suitable site conditions are present.

Wood and debris pile burning will occur within the right-of-way of the Wataynikaneyap Powerline Project from:

- North of Dinorwic to Pickle Lake and northwest to Kingfisher Lake and Weagamow Lake
- East and northeast of Red Lake

For further details contact Valard Construction LP at 1-844-752-9894

*Connecting People.  
Powering Communities.*

## Subcontractor Supplier – Lake St. Joseph Commercial Fishing



*A view of the fishing camp!*



*Fish getting ready to be filleted and packaged up! Lake St. Joseph Commercial Fishing primarily catches walleye. They can catch anywhere from 500 lbs. or more on a good weekend, which they will then sell in 5 lb. bags.*



### Lake St. Joseph Commercial Fishing

is a family business from Slate Falls, Ontario that supplies fish to the Wataynikaneyap project's Slate Falls and Sioux Lookout YATAW camps. Their main base camp for fishing is at Lake St. Joseph, where they have a stunning view.

It was shared that the Late Sam Carpenter once held the license, however that responsibility is now designated to Irene Shakakeesic, with other numerous designates within the family.

This includes Miriam Cook (bottom left), as well as the children within the family (right). Miriam shared that it is important to them that the children are involved in the business and that they learn how things work, as they are an important part of our future.

If you have any inquiries for **Lake St. Joseph Commercial Fishing**, please contact:



*Family angler Ivan Cook.*



**Miriam Cook**

Slate Falls Nation  
(807) 737.5902

[Miriamcook18@hotmail.com](mailto:Miriamcook18@hotmail.com)

OR

**Ruby Bighead**

Slate Falls Nation  
(807) 738.2335



## Indigenous Engagement

If you have any questions or suggestions about project engagement and communications (including the contents of this update), and how best to engage with your community during the pandemic, contact Karen Saunders, Indigenous Engagement Manager: [k.saunders@oslp.ca](mailto:k.saunders@oslp.ca) or Cell: (807) 620-1902.

### Ongoing Engagement Topics

- Endangered Species Act Permit - Monitoring Plans and Research Program
- Indigenous training, employment and business opportunities
- Working with communities on how best to engage with them during the pandemic

### Meet Your Community Liaisons



#### David Jeremiah

#### North Caribou Lake First Nation (NCLFN)

“I am fortunate, blessed and very honoured to be a part of the Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission Line Project; a historic achievement. Not only will it mean cleaner and more reliable power, but it will bring prosperity and security for our future generations.

My involvement in this project as a Community Liaison complements other responsibilities I have had at NCLFN including: Climate Change, Energy Efficiency, and All-weather Road and Waste Management Studies. I started with this project in 2015 when it was the Remote Electrification Readiness Project and working on the project has been a blast! I enjoy providing updates on the radio and sharing information and photos of the project on my community’s Facebook group. I am also the Community Liaison representative on the Opiikapawiin Human Resources Committee.

It all seemed like a mirage until we saw pictures of the first pole standing up on the Pikangikum Line. We should be proud to be the future full owners of Wataynikineyap Power. I look forward to the day I can tell my Grandson Ronan and future grandchildren that I was involved in this epic endeavour.



[davidjeremiah@northcaribou.ca](mailto:davidjeremiah@northcaribou.ca)

(807) 469-5191

## Available Information Flyers

Information flyers are available in English and Anishininimowin and can be found on the Opiikapawiin and Wataynikaneyap Facebook pages under “Timeline Photos”.

- Steel Structures – provides a summary of the design and highlights difference from wood poles
- Right of Way (Clearing) – provides a summary of how vegetation is cleared
- Structure Assembly – provides a summary of where and how steel structures are built.
- Construction Camps – describes required permits/approvals and typical infrastructure/amenities for workers.
- Mobile Wastewater Treatment Plants – describes what they look like and how they work.
- Endangered Species Act Permit – summarizes Indigenous commitments and opportunities and survey programs

## Other Sources of Information

Source	Types of Information
Opiikapawiin Services Website <a href="http://www.oslp.ca">www.oslp.ca</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job opportunities with Opiikapawiin, Valard, Wataynikaneyap and subcontractors (when provided)</li> </ul>
Opiikapawiin Services Facebook Page <a href="https://www.facebook.com/OpiikapawiinServicesLP">https://www.facebook.com/OpiikapawiinServicesLP</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training opportunities with Opiikapawiin and Valard</li> <li>• Job opportunities with Opiikapawiin, Valard, Wataynikaneyap and subcontractors (when provided)</li> <li>• Project updates and announcements</li> <li>• Information Flyers</li> </ul>
Wataynikaneyap Website <a href="http://www.wataypower.ca">www.wataypower.ca</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training opportunities</li> <li>• Employment opportunities with Wataynikaneyap</li> <li>• Labour Pool Database entry questionnaire</li> <li>• Detailed description of the Project</li> <li>• Fact sheets and Frequently Asked Questions</li> <li>• Project Schedule</li> <li>• Environmental Updates</li> <li>• Contact Information</li> <li>• Indigenous Participation Monthly Updates</li> </ul>
Wataynikaneyap Facebook Page <a href="https://www.facebook.com/Wataynikaneyap-Power-101077908260416">https://www.facebook.com/Wataynikaneyap-Power-101077908260416</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project announcements and updates</li> <li>• Employment opportunities with Wataynikaneyap</li> <li>• Fact sheets</li> <li>• Contests</li> </ul>
Valard Wataynikaneyap Website <a href="http://www.valard-watay.com">www.valard-watay.com</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job opportunities with Valard</li> <li>• Project schedule and progress</li> </ul>
Valard Facebook Page <a href="https://www.facebook.com/watayproject">https://www.facebook.com/watayproject</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training opportunities with Valard</li> <li>• Job opportunities with Valard</li> </ul>

## Questions or Concerns about the Project?

If you have a question or concern about the Project, you can provide it formally via phone or email to the contacts below.

Phone: 807-633-1499    E-mail: [WatayInquiries@wataypower.ca](mailto:WatayInquiries@wataypower.ca)

# OPIIKAPAWIIN STAFF CONTACTS

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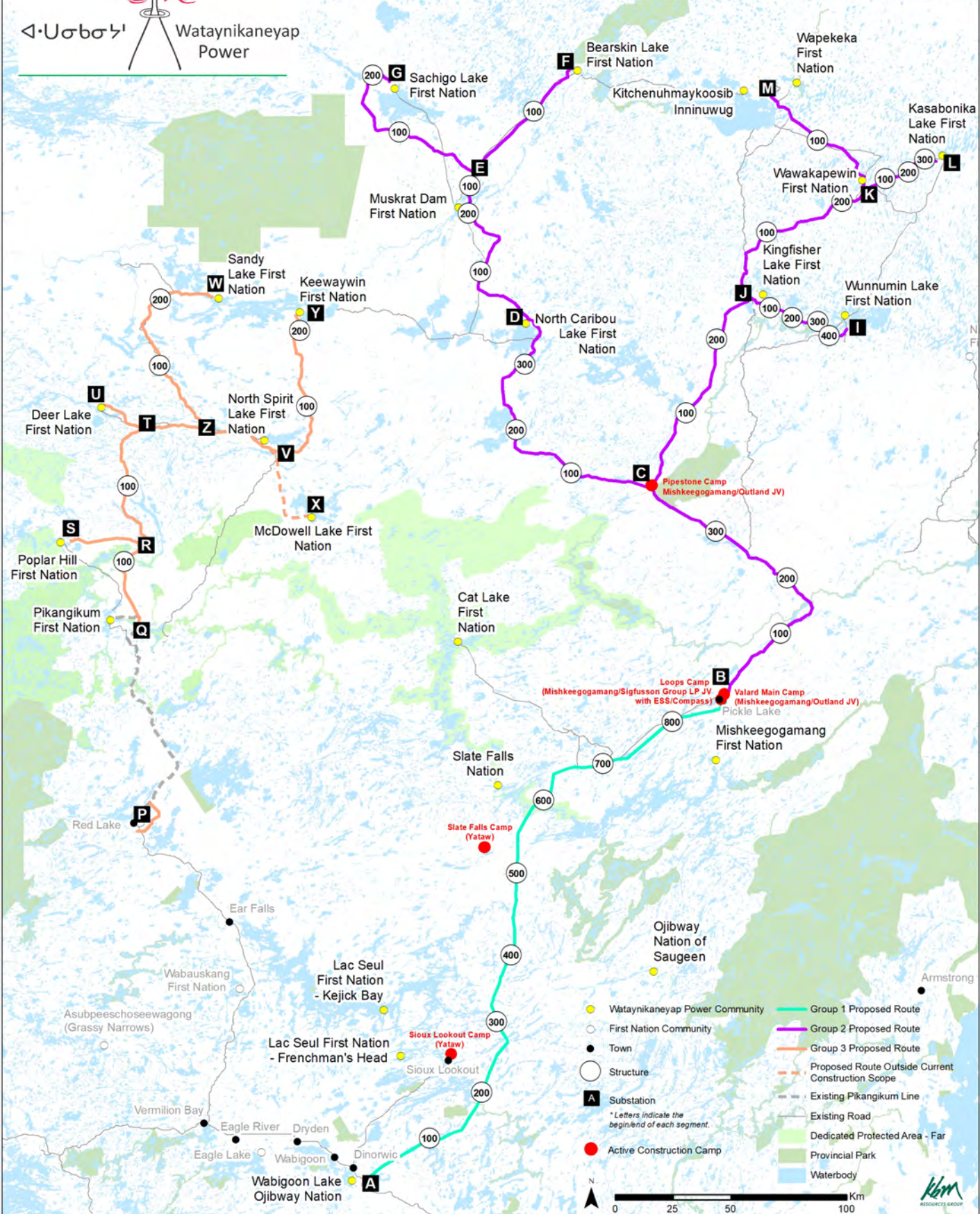
Staff	Title	Ext	Office Number	Cell Number	Email
Lucie Edwards	CEO	204	807.474.3300	807.632-7592	<a href="mailto:l.edwards@oslp.ca">l.edwards@oslp.ca</a>
Richard Lacoste	Financial Manager	203	807.474.3300	807.631.2579	<a href="mailto:r.lacoste@oslp.ca">r.lacoste@oslp.ca</a>
Jordan Sturgeon	Manager, Projects & IT	206	807.474.3300	807.631.4540	<a href="mailto:j.sturgeon@oslp.ca">j.sturgeon@oslp.ca</a>
Lydia Big George	Indigenous Participation Manager	202	807.474.3300	807.630.1168	<a href="mailto:l.bgeorge@oslp.ca">l.bgeorge@oslp.ca</a>
Karen Saunders	Indigenous Engagement Manager	263	807.474.3300	807.620.1902	<a href="mailto:k.saunders@oslp.ca">k.saunders@oslp.ca</a>
Richard Chukra	Indigenous Business Relationships Advisor	212	807.474.3300	807.630.8684	<a href="mailto:r.chukra@oslp.ca">r.chukra@oslp.ca</a>
Ivan Donio	Indigenous Strategic Sourcing Advisor	211	807.474.3300	807.633.4856	<a href="mailto:i.donio@oslp.ca">i.donio@oslp.ca</a>
Elaine Keesick	Indigenous Recruitment & Retention Advisor	210	807.474.3300	807.633.7446	<a href="mailto:e.keesick@oslp.ca">e.keesick@oslp.ca</a>
Jackie Shewaybick	Administrative Coordinator	201	807.474.3300	807.631.9602	<a href="mailto:j.shewaybick@oslp.ca">j.shewaybick@oslp.ca</a>
Nancy Doblej	Indigenous Participation Coordinator	262	807.474.3300	807.630.1471	<a href="mailto:n.doblej@oslp.ca">n.doblej@oslp.ca</a>
Geoffrey Otto	Employment Supports Coordinator	261	807.474.3300	807.620.5219	<a href="mailto:g.otto@oslp.ca">g.otto@oslp.ca</a>
Josie Zussino	Indigenous Engagement Coordinator	214	807.474.3300	807.620.9148	<a href="mailto:j.zussino@oslp.ca">j.zussino@oslp.ca</a>
Laura Calmwind	Training Coordinator	205	807.474.3300	807.630.2196	<a href="mailto:l.calmwind@oslp.ca">l.calmwind@oslp.ca</a>
Keisha Peters Mamakwa	Training & Administrative Support	209	807.474.3300	807.632.7294	<a href="mailto:k.petersmamakwa@oslp.ca">k.petersmamakwa@oslp.ca</a>
Aaron Kelly	Finance & Administrative Support	213	807.474.3300	807.632.7279	<a href="mailto:a.kelly@oslp.ca">a.kelly@oslp.ca</a>



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Wataynikaneyap Power

# WATAYNIKANEYAP POWER



\*Note: Final routing of some portions of line is subject to ongoing engagement with communities.

