

Wataynikaneyap Power & Opiikapawiin Services

Indigenous Participation Update

Photo Credit:
Nick Hammond

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.

Today



* 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

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COVID-19 and the Project

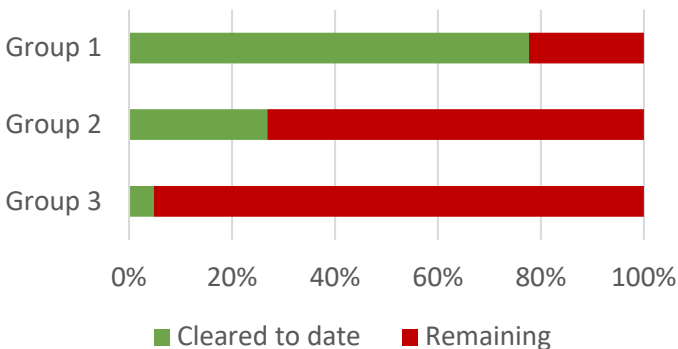
- During these unprecedented times, Wataynikaneyap Power LP ("Wataynikaneyap Power") is entering into the construction phase to build critical infrastructure to connect remote First Nation communities to the electricity grid (the "Project").
- The objective of Wataynikaneyap Power is to continue with 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

Construction Update – up to end of October 2020

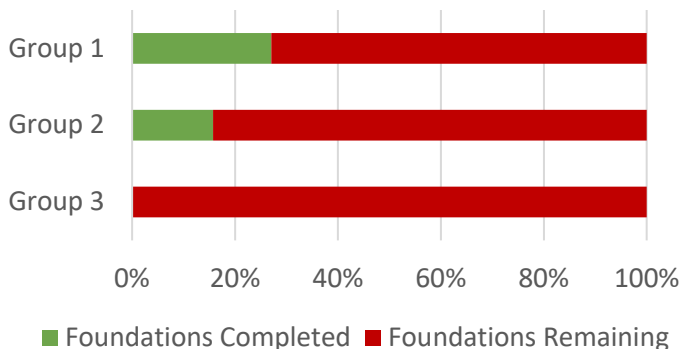
Valard began work on the Project in October of 2019. Some of the areas that have been progressing include:

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

Right of Way Clearing Progress

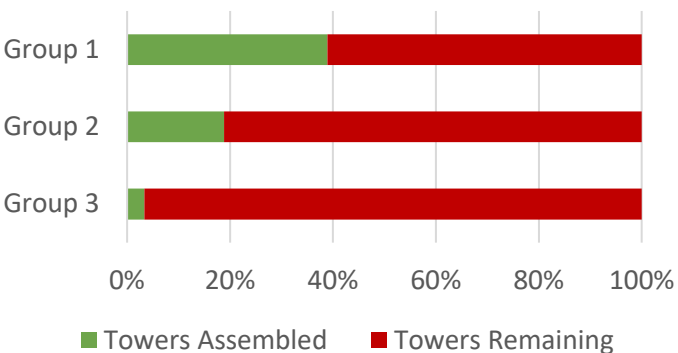


Foundation Progress

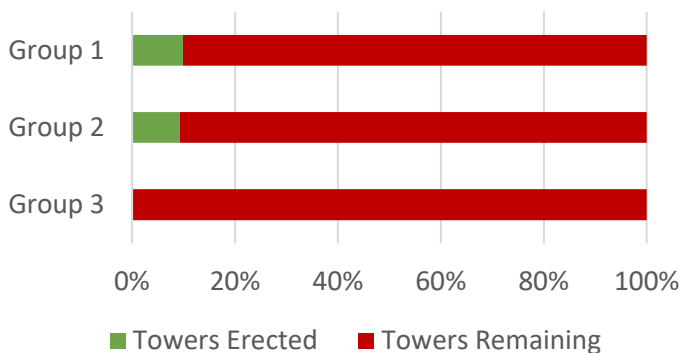


* See map on the last page for the location of each "Group"

Tower Assembly Progress



Tower Erection Progress



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

If you have further questions about Indigenous Participation, contact Lydia Big George, Indigenous Participation Manager: 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 Office: (807) 474-3300 ext. 205 Cell: (807) 630.2196.

Opiikapawiin Services Training to Date (up to end of October 2020)

Opiikapawiin Services Training Program	Total # Trained	Opiikapawiin Services Training Program	Total # Trained
Introduction to Powerline Construction and Work Readiness	149	Mechanical Harvesting	20
		Cross Cultural Awareness Refresher	8
Line Crew Ground Support Pre-Training and Information Session	10	Cross-Cultural Awareness Training – Two Day training for all employees: Wataynikaneyap Project Manager, Opiikapawiin, Owners Engineer, Advisors, Tribal Councils, Community Liaisons, & Valard participation.	132
Line Crew Ground Support	44		
Remote Cook and Camp Services	14		

Valard Training to Date (up to end of October 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	117	Working at Heights	20
Electrical Safety Awareness	118	Basic Rigging and Hoisting	6
Hydraulic Safety Awareness	117	Mobile Crane Operator 0-8 Ton	5
Valard ES Orientation	117	Ontario Joint Health and Safety Committee Member Certification	6
Valard Safety Orientation	118	Powered Mobile Equipment, Aerial/Elevated Work Platform	7
Valard Wataynikaneyap Site Orientation	118	Poletop Rescue	5
WHMIS 2015 with GHS	112	Chainsaw Safety Awareness	5
Worker Health and Safety Awareness (4 steps)	104	Telecom Work Zone Traffic Control and Safety Course	5
Emergency First Aid	2	Traffic Control Person	10
Standard First Aid	14	IHSA Utility Work Protection Code	2
Valard Training Program	Total # of Trainees	Telecom Ladder Safety	2
Cultural Awareness (Full) **	24	Traffic Control Person Online	10
Cultural Awareness (Interim)	946		

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

Training in Progress!

Line Crew Ground Support (LCGS) is a 15-week work-ready powerline construction training program delivered in Thunder Bay that provides classroom and hands-on skills with over 25 transferable certificates. Graduates of this program have secured work in powerline construction and are working as powerline ground crew, tower assemblers and powerline technician apprentices.



Curtis Lawson,
McDowell Lake First Nation



Lucas Toft,
Lac Seul First Nation



Dakota Goodman,
Sandy Lake First Nation



Dorwin Strang,
Pikangikum First Nation



Jobby Strang,
Poplar Hill First Nation



Richard Spade,
Mishkeegogamang First Nation



Ryan Meekis,
Sandy Lake First Nation

The Line Crew Ground Support Trainees are moving into their final weeks of training. Stay tuned for next month's issue, where we will provide an update on their November 13 graduation!



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.

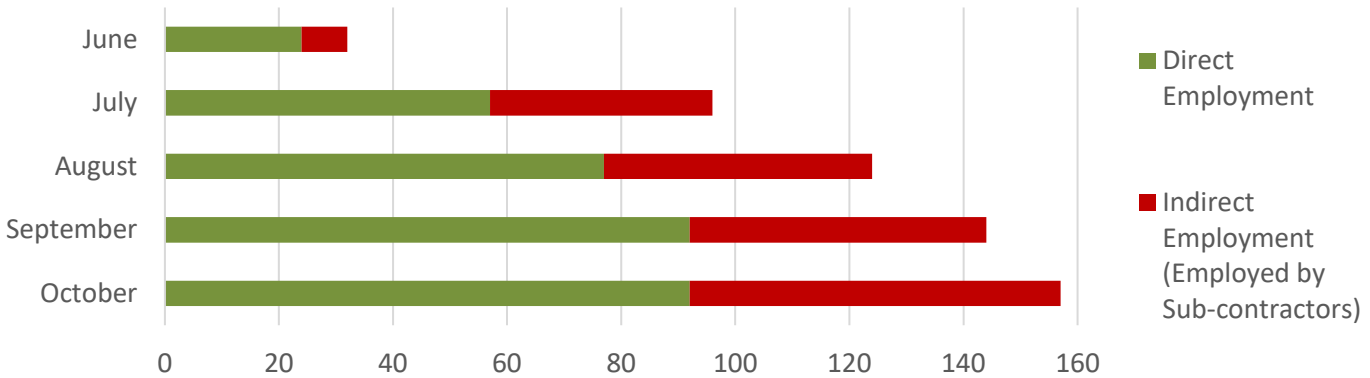
Upcoming Training Opportunities

Training Program	Offered by:	Training Dates	Details
Remote Camp and Cook Training Program	OSLP	8 Weeks, Tentatively scheduled for January 2021	Thank you to all applicants who have applied for this training! OSLP has completed the application review, interview and selection process for 14 trainees. Stay tuned for updates!
Powerline Construction and Work Readiness Training	OSLP	2 weeks TBD	To be hosted by one of the Participating First Nations. Planning is ongoing. Watch for posters and announcements.

Future opportunities will include security guard training.

Employment

Participating First Nation Employee Information June through October



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

Indigenous Participation by Activity	Participating First Nation Hours Worked (as % of total)	
	September	October
Assembly	44%	40%
Foundations and Anchors (Valard Crews only)	10%	12%
Survey	7%	8%
Guy Wire	37%	31%
Material Handling	18%	17%

Valard is looking to increase the number of Participating First Nations working on the project. If you are interested in working, submit a resume to:

projectjobs@oslp.ca
 or
watay-resumes@valard.com

Better yet, add yourself to the **Labour Pool Database!**
 (see below)

Get Yourself into the Wataynikaneyap Labour Pool Database (LPD)

Fill Out and Submit!

- Find the Wataynikaneyap Labour Pool Questionnaire form at www.wataypower.ca. In the top menu bar, go to "Project" then "Employment and Careers".
- Scroll down to the Labour Pool Database section. The form can be filled out online and printed, or printed and filled out on paper.
- Fax/email completed forms to the contacts on the form.

OR

Sign Up online!

- Head to the labour pool site at: <https://wataypower.knack.com/labour-pool#home/> and click the "Sign Up" button.
- Enter your email address and choose a password, then click "Submit".
- Once your account has been approved, login and click "Update My Profile" in the top right to enter your info
- To print a copy, go to the "View My Profile" page and click the "Print this page" button.

There are currently over 670 profiles in the Labour Pool Database!!

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.

Don't Have a Resumé? Try the new Resumé Builder!

NEED HELP? Please see your local Community Liaison, or you can contact **Elaine Keesick, Indigenous Recruitment and Retention Advisor**, Opiikapawiin Services LP at e.keesick@oslp.ca or cell (807) 633-7446.

Employee Spotlight



"John Jonassen is a member of Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation, hired by Valard as a Project Engineer. John is a Professional Engineer licensed to practice in Ontario."

"When I first heard about the Wataynikaneyap Power Project in the news I immediately knew this was a project I wanted to be a part of so that I could apply the knowledge gained from five years of study at Confederation College and Lakehead University. Having worked previously with Hydro One Remote Communities I knew about the challenges our northern communities faced and realized this wasn't a typical project, but one that would have a positive impact for generations to come.

As a Project Engineer, my team and I ensure towers can be built safely from the ground up, overcoming any terrain from muskeg to bedrock. Planning is a big part of our work. It's a lot of fun to be able to work with our skilled trades people in the field, to see those plans become reality, to share laughs over a hot meal, or to relax in the rec room in the evening.

Whether we're assembling towers or ensuring the camp is comfortable and cozy, we are all part of one great team with a common goal of powering communities safely so we can all spend time with our families at the end of a rotation.

It is truly an honour to contribute to the world-class Wataynikaneyap Power Project."

Active/Recent Job Postings

View at www.oslp.ca/careers – where there are over 20+ positions posted!

Positions	Deadline	Details
VALARD		
Tower Assemblers, Project Field Quality Control Lattice Steel Assembly/Erection, Emergency Medical Responder, Primary Care Paramedic, Environmental Monitor	Ongoing	See job postings on the Valard-Wataynikaneyap Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/watayproject) the Valard Wataynikaneyap website (www.valard-watay.com), the Opiikapawiin website (https://www.oslp.ca/careers) or the Opiikapawiin Facebook page (www.facebook.com/OpiikapawiinServicesLP).
Indigenous Construction Liaison/Knowledge Holder	Until filled	
Foundations Labourer, Fuel Truck Driver, Class A Driver	Dec 31, 2020	Forward resumes to: watay-resumes@valard.com or projectjobs@oslp.ca . Questions? Call 780-986-6180
YATAW CAMPS AND CATERING (JV Partner to 4 communities)		
Camp Manager, Camp Administrator, Head Chef, Cooks, Bakers, Kitchen Support, Housekeeper, Maintenance	Ongoing	Ask your Community Liaison for job details. Send resumes and questions to cmilligan@outland.ca
SYNTERRA SECURITY SOLUTIONS (JV Partner to 3 communities)		
Licensed Security Guard, Yard Attendant	Ongoing	Send resumes to: ann@synterra.ca
SIGFUSSON GROUP LP (JV Partner to 2 communities)		
Skilled Labourer	Ongoing	Ask your Community Liaison for job details. Send resume and two references to: HR@sigfusson.ca or gpower@sigfusson.ca
Dozer and Excavator Operators	Ongoing	
NORTHERN MAT & BRIDGE (JV Partner to 4 communities)		
Shuttle Operator	Ongoing	Ask your Community Liaison for job details. Send resumes and questions to Speterson@northernmat.ca

Substation Foundation



Aerial view of the foundation being constructed for substation C. This is at the junction of where the line comes from Pickle Lake and splits to North Caribou Lake First Nation to the west and Kingfisher Lake First Nation to the east.

(Photo credit: Juan Anderson)

Business Readiness and Procurement of Goods and Services

Indigenous Businesses on the Project to Date

There have been many successful Indigenous Joint Venture Partnership Businesses providing the following services to the project:

- Site Maintenance
- Electrical, Plumbing, Utilities
- Freight
- Right of Way Clearing
- Drilling
- Blasting
- Excavation Services
- Communication Services
- FM Radio Communication
- Rentals
- Water Delivery
- Environmental Services
- Aggregate Supply and Delivery
- Road Construction
- Camp Services
- Foundations
- Portable Bridges
- Rigmat Rentals
- Fuel Transportation
- Trucking
- Camp Construction
- Clearing and Access
- Welding
- Machining and Fabrication
- Road Maintenance
- Waste Management
- Administration Services
- Health and Safety Services
- Security Services
- Safety Training
- Civil Work
- Aviation
- Helicopter Services

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

If you have further questions about business readiness, procurement and contracting opportunities, please contact:

Richard Chukra, Indigenous Business Relationships Advisor - r.chukra@oslp.ca Office: (807) 474-3300 ext. 212, Cell: (807) 630-8684
Ivan Donio, Indigenous Strategic Sourcing Advisor - i.donio@oslp.ca Office: (807) 474-3300 ext. 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 for information or to register your participating First Nation business or joint venture.

There are over
400
businesses in
the registry!!!

Subcontractor Profile



NCPC General Partners Limited (NCPC) is a partnership between North Caribou Lake First Nation and Perron Contracting. NCPC is committed to efficient completion of their Wataynikaneyap contracts, while preserving the rights of all the northern First Nations.

Darren Corbiere is the owner of Perron Contracting and has 29 years of experience working in Northern Ontario communities. Throughout his career he has seen many partnerships formed between companies and Northern communities, including in his early years as an employee for various contracting companies.

Improving on these relationships has always been Darren's goal. At Perron Contracting, communication is paramount to their operation; listening to the needs of the community while respecting the land and their partners wishes. This has allowed Perron Contracting and North Caribou Lake First Nation to forge a true partnership that is a model for the future: NCPC.

While the partnership between North Caribou Lake First Nation and Perron Contracting was born as a result of the Wataynikaneyap Transmission Project, it has developed into a relationship where both entities support and respect each other in ways that go far beyond business.



Many years of experience on ice roads and in difficult conditions.

NCPC is Northern Ontario's largest Contracting Company that is 100% First Nations owned.

NCPC works on many aspects of the Wataynikaneyap Transmission Line Project. NCPC has:

- Created **Access Roads**,
- **Cleared 500 Ha of Right of Way** in Section CD,
- **Cleared the North Caribou Lake Substation area**; and
- Begun mobilization for the **North Caribou Lake Construction Camp**.



*NCPC has accomplished this while maintaining the wishes of the community by **saving 2073 cords of firewood from the Right of Way**. NCPC processed this wood and delivered it to North Caribou Lake First Nation to supply the community with heating for the winter.*

NCPC is also working closely with the community to find ways to train and employ community members and to develop a strong work force, as the goal is to continue the partnership beyond the Wataynikaneyap Project.

For more information, please contact:

NCPC GENERAL PARTNERS Ltd.

92 Sturgeon Meadows Rd.

Sioux Lookout, ON, P8T 0A7

Phone: (807) 737-2000

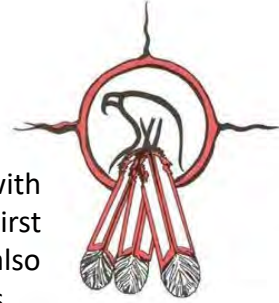
Website: www.perroncontracting.com

Meet Your Community Liaisons



Lola Quill Pikangikum First Nation

As the Community Liaison, Lola Quill works with the community leadership in Pikangikum First Nation to provide project updates. She is also the contact for training and job opportunities.



“I started working for the Wataynikaneyap Project as a Community Liaison for my community of Pikangikum First Nation in February 2020.

It has been such an honour and blessing to be a part of it. There are so many training opportunities that are being offered, and I would like to use my voice to encourage our people to sign up for training and be a part of the Labour Pool Database.

There were so many difficulties with outages before we got connected, and we needed reliable electricity. We were the first community to get that connection, and it is a relief that we don't have to worry about filling the generator fuel tanks anymore. This was such a big project and to see it was an historic event. It is nice to see us all working together from the 24 Participating communities to build relationships and communications for us Community Liaison's.

In my spare time I like to travel, go out fishing, hunting, and camping with my family.

We in Pikangikum are all enjoying lighting up our Christmas trees and decorating our houses with bright Christmas lights this second year of being connected to the Wataynikaneyap Transmission Line.

Merry Christmas Everyone, and stay safe - From Pikangikum First Nation”.

lolaquill@gmail.com

(807) 728-7255

Indigenous Engagement

If you have any questions or suggestions about project engagement and communications and how best to engage with your community during the pandemic, please let us know. We would also love any suggestions for the content of this update. Contact Karen Saunders, Indigenous Engagement Manager: k.saunders@oslp.ca or Cell: (807) 620-1902.

Margaret Kenequanash broadcasting live on the radio in North Caribou Lake First Nation.



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

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

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

COMMUNITY LIAISONS

NAME	COMMUNITY	E-MAIL
Virginia Wemigwans (temp)	Bearskin Lake	wemigwansvirginia@gmail.com
Vacant	Cat Lake	
Barry Meekis	Deer Lake	bear7462@yahoo.ca
Betty Anderson	Kasabonika Lake	graceande67@gmail.com
David Kakepetum	Keewaywin	davidkptm86@gmail.com
Blake Hudson	KI	blakehudson1@hotmail.com
Micah Winter	Kingfisher Lake	micahw@kingfisherlake.ca
Jordan Maunula	Lac Des Mille Lacs	jcmaunula@gmail.com
Cassie Capay	Lac Seul	cassiecapay@lacseulfn.org
Jerome Lawson	McDowell Lake	jeromelawson.jl@gmail.com
Roy Fiddler*	Muskrat Dam	royfiddler@gmail.com
Donald Campbell*	North Spirit Lake	donaldcampbell620@gmail.com
Lola Quill	Pikangikum	lolaquill@gmail.com
Phil Strang Jr.	Poplar Hill	andrew_str236@hotmail.ca
Ellen Tait	Sachigo Lake	ellentait@sachigo.ca
Una Gott	Sandy Lake	ugott21@gmail.com
Brenda Bunting	Slate Falls	brenbunting@gmail.com
Vacant	Wabigoon Lake	
Roy Frogg	Wapekeka	froggroy@gmail.com
Vacant	Wawakapewin	
Tommy Sainnawap	Wunnumin Lake	toms@wunnumin.ca
David Jeremiah	North Caribou Lake	davidjeremiah@northcaribou.ca
Tom Wasaykeesic	Mishkeegogamang	tomwasaykeesic.mish@gmail.com
Vacant	Saugeen	

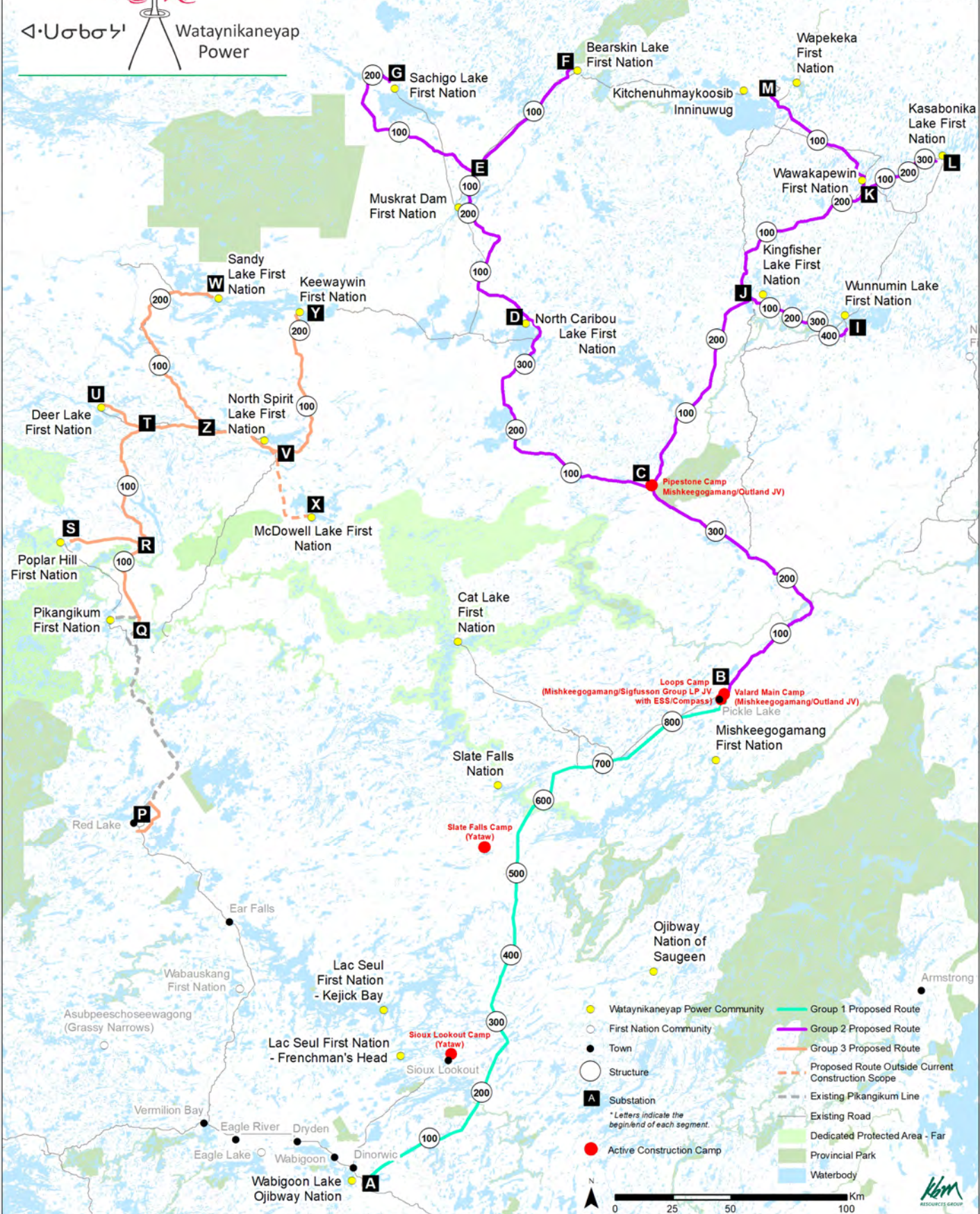
* Community contact (Community Liaison position vacant)



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Wataynikaneyap Power

WATAYNIKANEYAP POWER



- Wataynikaneyap Power Community
- First Nation Community
- Town
- Structure
- A Substation
** Letters indicate the begin/end of each segment.*
- Active Construction Camp
- Group 1 Proposed Route
- Group 2 Proposed Route
- Group 3 Proposed Route
- Proposed Route Outside Current Construction Scope
- Existing Pikangikum Line
- Existing Road
- Dedicated Protected Area - Far
- Provincial Park
- Waterbody

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

