

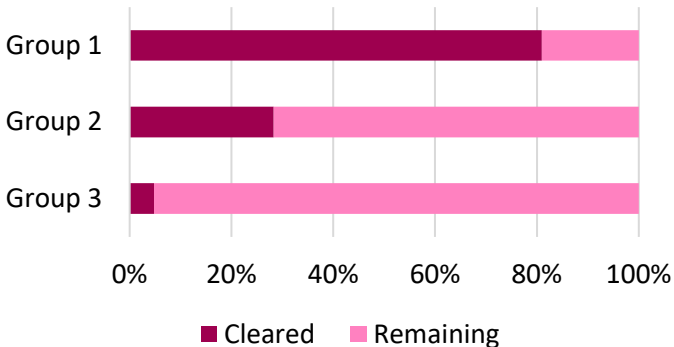


## Construction Update – up to January 2, 2021

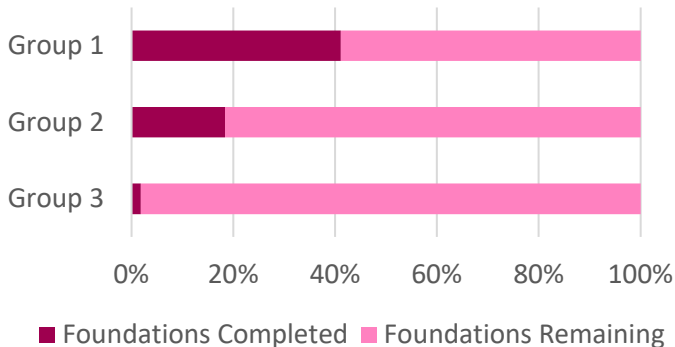
Valard began work on the Project in October of 2019. Some of the areas that have been progressing include:

- 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
- Stringing Activities

Right of Way Clearing Progress

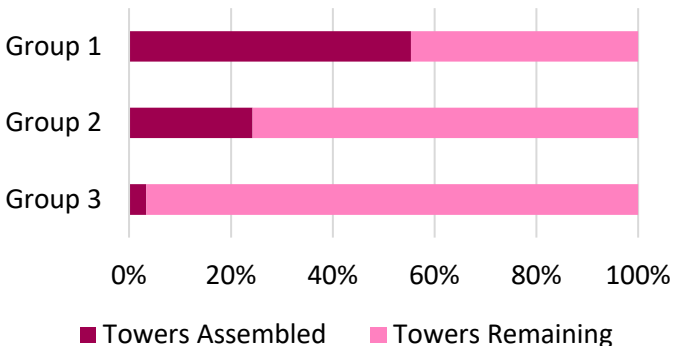


Foundation Progress

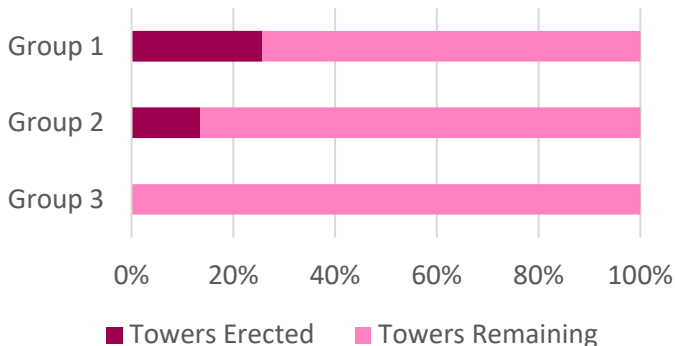


\* See map on the last page for the location of each "Group"

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](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.



*Drilling foundations at the Pickle Lake substation site.*

## 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 safely leaving and returning home. Contact Laura Calmwind for further details.

## Opiikapawiin Services Training to Date (up to end of December 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 Refresher	8
Line Crew Ground Support	51	Cross-Cultural Awareness Training – Two Day training for all employees: Wataynikaneyap PM, Opiikapawiin, Owners Engineer, Advisors, Tribal Councils, Community Liaisons, & Valard participation.	132
Remote Cook and Camp Services	14		
Environmental Protection Training Program	12		

← See Pages 4 and 5 for details!

## Valard Training

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. As of December 31, 2020, Valard has provided 3,012.25 hours of training to Participating First Nation employees in a variety of areas including for example:

- Safety, Site and General Orientation
- Electrical and Hydraulic Safety Awareness
- First Aid (Standard and Emergency)
- Working at Heights
- Basic Rigging and Hoisting
- Mobile Crane Operation (0-8 ton)
- Poletop Rescue
- Chainsaw Safety Awareness
- Alcohol and Drug Awareness
- Powered Mobile Equipment, Aerial/Elevated Work Platform
- Telecom Work Zone Traffic Control and Safety
- Traffic Control Person
- Cultural Awareness

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](mailto:projectjobs@oslp.ca) OR [watay-resumes@valard.com](mailto:watay-resumes@valard.com)

Better yet, add yourself to the **Labour Pool Database!** (see page 6)





## Ganawenjigewin Environmental Protection Training Program



Wataynikaneyap and Opiikapawiin Services are proud to have developed and delivered a four-week Ganawenjigewin Environmental Protection Training Program in November and December of 2020.

The training's unique approach combines traditional land-based Indigenous knowledge with western science to teach and prepare participants for environmental management employment opportunities on the Wataynikaneyap Transmission Project.

On December 11 the twelve participants successfully completed their training. They will be part of the next generation of Environmental Stewards to protect and care for the land, both during and after the project. Miigwetch for all of your hard work!!



### **Graduates posing with their Valard certificates!**

**Top Row (left to right):** Bradley Morris, Magnus Kitchemonia, River Beardy, Nita Quequish, Jade Kejick, Skky Kejick, Lloyd Lawson, Renea Bird

**Bottom Row (left to right):** Shirley King, Margaret Childforever, Valard Instructor Alicia Bellerose, Sinclair Anderson, Hannah Rea

With the knowledge carried and shared by Elders and traditional knowledge keepers of the Participating First Nations and area, trainees took part in a combination of classroom learning, traditional ceremonies, and land-based exercises during the first three weeks. For the final week, Opiikapawiin partnered with Valard to deliver the specialized Environmental Monitor training that Valard provides to their staff.



*The group learning how to monitor a permanent wildlife survey plot near an existing transmission line.*



*Trainees learning how to measure tree density to verify regeneration success.*



*Nita Quequish and Sinclair Anderson learn the traditional practice of preparing and scraping deer hide.*

Opiikapawiin adapted its delivery due to the COVID-19 pandemic by holding training at the Quetico Conference Centre 1.5 hours outside of Thunder Bay, reducing exposure of trainees to others. COVID safety protocols were in place including taking traditional medicine prepared by Elders daily. This allowed trainees to focus on learning. Classroom presentations moved to online video conferencing with limited instructors joining outdoor activities.



*Sinclair Anderson learning the traditional method of building a birchbark basket.*



*Magnus Kitchemonia and Lloyd Lawson observe Elder Rebecca McKay demonstrating traditional methods of preparing Lake Trout.*



*Group learning the traditional practice of creating leather from fish skin.*



*Checking water flow through a culvert in a field exercise.*



Many thanks to all the staff, presenters, and knowledge keepers for coming together to make this program a reality. You are all appreciated! A special thank you to Laura Calmwind and Conor Lee Kam of Opiikapawiin Services LP for making the commitment to deliver this program.

## Upcoming Training Opportunities

Training Program	Offered by:	Training Dates	Details
Remote Camp Cook and Camp Services	OSLP	TBD	6 weeks with 2 weeks on the job training.
Community-Based Certified Mechanical Harvesting	OSLP	TBD	For experienced heavy equipment operators. To be hosted by one of the Participating First Nations.
Line Crew Ground Support	OSLP	TBD	All-women LCGS training program, tentatively Fall 2021.
Powerline Construction and Work Readiness	OSLP	TBD	2 Weeks. To be hosted by one of the Participating First Nations. Planning is ongoing. Watch for announcements.

# Call for Environmental Committee Members

**Are you looking for a unique leadership opportunity?  
Are you knowledgeable about and interested in the environment?**



- The Wataynikaneyap Transmission Line Project, together with Opiikapawiin Services LP, is currently seeking candidates to sit on an Environmental Committee.
- The Environmental Committee is a working group that will bring together community members to provide guidance, information and recommendations to the Wataynikaneyap Transmission Line Project focusing on key environmental matters affecting participating First Nations.
- Candidates must show a keen interest in environmental matters; have Indigenous knowledge of land management, ethics, and protocols of the First Nations that will be impacted by the transmission line project; be living in one of the 24 First Nations; and be a language speaker.

If you are interested in applying or have any questions about the Environmental Committee, please contact **Lydia Big George** at Opiikapawiin Services LP - **807-474-3300 ext. 202** or [lbiggeorge@oslp.ca](mailto:lbiggeorge@oslp.ca) or email your letter of interest to sit on this environmental committee

## Employment

Monthly Participating First Nation Employee Information – June through January



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

Indigenous Participation by Activity	Participating First Nation Hours Worked (as % of total)			
	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Assembly	44%	40%	45%	39%
Foundations and Anchors (Valard Crews only)	10%	12%	15%	20%
Survey	7%	8%	8%	10%
Guy Wire	37%	31%	27%	25%
Material Handling	18%	17%	26%	29%

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



**" I SUBMITTED THE QUESTIONNAIRE IN NOVEMBER...  
GOT A CALL FROM VALARD IN DECEMBER...  
STARTED WORK IN JANUARY!"**



### Sign Up online!

- Head to the labour pool site at: <https://www.oslp.ca/labour-pool> 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 700 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](mailto:e.keesick@oslp.ca) or cell (807) 633-7446.





## Active/Recent Job Postings



View at [www.oslp.ca/careers](http://www.oslp.ca/careers) – where there are over 20+ positions posted!

Positions	Deadline	Details
<b>VALARD</b>		
Tower Assemblers, Project Field Quality Control Lattice Steel Assembly/Erection, Emergency Medical Responder, Primary Care Paramedic Level 1-2, Environmental Monitor, Assemblers	Ongoing	<p>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>), the Opiikapawiiin website (<a href="https://www.oslp.ca/careers">https://www.oslp.ca/careers</a>) or the Opiikapawiiin Facebook page (<a href="http://www.facebook.com/OpiikapawiiinServicesLP">www.facebook.com/OpiikapawiiinServicesLP</a>).</p> <p>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</p>
Indigenous Construction Liaison/Knowledge Holder	Until filled	
Community Support Partner	Until Filled	
<b>*NEW: Community Indigenous Relations Advisor</b>	Until Filled	
<b>*NEW: Survey Assistant</b>	Feb 28, 2021	
<b>*NEW Class A Driver, Excavator Operator, Foundations Labourer, Fuel Truck Driver, Project Safety Administrator, Material &amp; Logistics Coordinator, Prep/Ground Work Subforeperson</b>	March 05, 2021	
<b>*NEW General Subforeperson/Construction Supervisor</b>	March 05, 2021	
<b>*NEW Project Field Quality Inspector – Stringing, Project Field Quality Inspector – Substations, Project Field Quality Inspector – Foundations, Project Field Quality Inspector – Lattice Steel Assembly Erection</b>	March 05, 2021	
<b>YATAW CAMPS AND CATERING (JV Partner to 4 communities)</b>		
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 <a href="mailto:cmilligan@outland.ca">cmilligan@outland.ca</a>
<b>SYNTERRA SECURITY SOLUTIONS (JV Partner to 3 communities)</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 to 2 communities)</b>		
Skilled Labourer, Dozer and Excavator Operators	Ongoing	Ask your Community Liaison for job details. 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>
<b>NORTHERN MAT &amp; BRIDGE (JV Partner to 4 communities)</b>		
Shuttle Operator	Ongoing	Ask your Community Liaison for job details. Send resumes and questions to <a href="mailto:Speterson@northernmat.ca">Speterson@northernmat.ca</a>

**ARE YOU AN EMPLOYEE FROM ONE OF THE 24 PARTICIPATING FIRST NATIONS,  
AND WORKING ON THE WATAYNIKANEYAP PROJECT?**

**ARE YOU A BUSINESS OR JV WORKING ON THE WATAYNIKANEYAP PROJECT?**

**We would like to hear your stories and positive experiences that can be included in Wataynikaneyap & Opiikapawiiin's Monthly Update Newsletter to the communities!**

**\*\*If you are interested in participating or have any further questions, please contact:**

**Josie Zussino at (807) 620 9148 or send an e-mail to [j.zussino@oslp.ca](mailto:j.zussino@oslp.ca).**

## 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
- Rig mat 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

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 ext. 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 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](mailto: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!!!**



#### **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

### 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](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



## Subcontractor Profile – Centerfire/ThawKayhiGan LP(TKG)



*If there are any inquiries pertaining to Centerfire's operations, please feel free to contact:*

**Cam Wodham**

*Chief Operating Officer*

[cam.wodham@centerfire.ca](mailto:cam.wodham@centerfire.ca)

Centerfire Energy Group ("Centerfire") is an Indigenous owned business based on the Fort McMurray 468 First Nation that specializes in clearing activities, access construction, and heavy civil construction to support large-scale, energy-based industrial infrastructure projects throughout Canada.

In early 2019, Centerfire and TKG (ThawKayhiGan LP) made the decision to enter into a partnership after discovering the two groups were aligned in their socioeconomic platforms and mandates to support Indigenous Communities in a meaningful capacity.



*An excavator installing corduroy on a soft spot.*

**Our goal is to have at least 20% local workers on the Watay project, with training programs available.**

**Resumes can be sent to: [careers@centerfire.ca](mailto:careers@centerfire.ca)**

Fast-forward to 2020 and "TKG CF ROWC LP" was created to subcontract to Valard to complete clearing activities and preliminary access construction on the Wataynikaneyap transmission line project.

Centerfire Energy Group has been subcontracted to perform clearing activities and preliminary access construction on the northern section of Group 2 (see map on page 12).

**Our most important goals on this project are:**

- To maintain a strong safety culture to ensure nobody gets hurt;
- To respect and remain world-class stewards to the environment we are working in; and
- To achieve a high-level of local participation from the participating First Nation communities

We are preparing to ramp-up operations toward the later part of January, or when the winter road allows for heavy traffic.

Centerfire and TKG will continue to work in a respectful manner through various communities as we support the project through to completion.



*Warming up a rake-cat for the day!*

## Meet Your Community Liaisons



### Roy Frogg Wapekeka First Nation

After spending many years away, Roy returned to his community where an opportunity was available to take part in the Wataynikaneyap Powerline Transmission Project as the Community Liaison.

In the beginning he found this role a bit challenging, catching up and learning his duties on the go; keeping up with the fast pace of the Project.

Faced with many challenges in his role, Roy continues to work towards encouraging the younger generation to seize the many opportunities that arise from the construction of the transmission line.



[froggroy@gmail.com](mailto:froggroy@gmail.com)

(807) 537-2315

Understanding the many barriers his fellow members face, he shares information on Project updates, employment opportunities and works with leadership and OSLP to bring training programs to his community to help benefit the members.

He enjoys the work and wants to see his community members take pride in the Project as much as he has since taking on his role as CL for Wapekeka First Nation.



## Available Information Flyers



Information flyers are available in English and Anishiniimowin 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 (ESA) Permit** – summarizes Indigenous commitments and opportunities and survey programs

## 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)**

Like and Follow us on **facebook** for regular updates on the project, training, jobs, and more!



## 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>



