



Wataynikaneyap Power & Opiikapawiin Services

Indigenous Participation Update

Photo Credit: Al Hacker

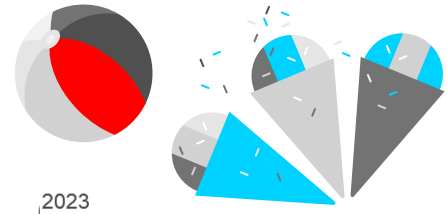
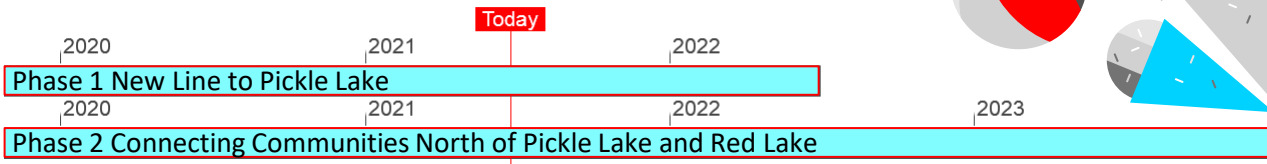
Opiikapawiin and Wataynikaneyap

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's services include:

- employment and training
- community readiness
- business readiness
- community engagement
- communication

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



* Schedule is subject to change

Cover Photo Description: A stringing crew is doing some final wire clamping between Pickle Lake and the Pipestone River. This is a job that requires comfort at heights and work hours count toward Power Line Technician Apprenticeship requirements. Valard promotes interested workers into these roles from assembly positions.

Table of Contents	Page
Construction Update	2
Project Jobs	3
Valard Employee Spotlight	4
Subcontractor Employee Spotlight	5
Training Opportunities	7
Community Liaison Profile	8
Indigenous Engagement	10
Other Sources of Information	11
Wataynikaneyap Power Project Map	12

COVID-19 and the Project

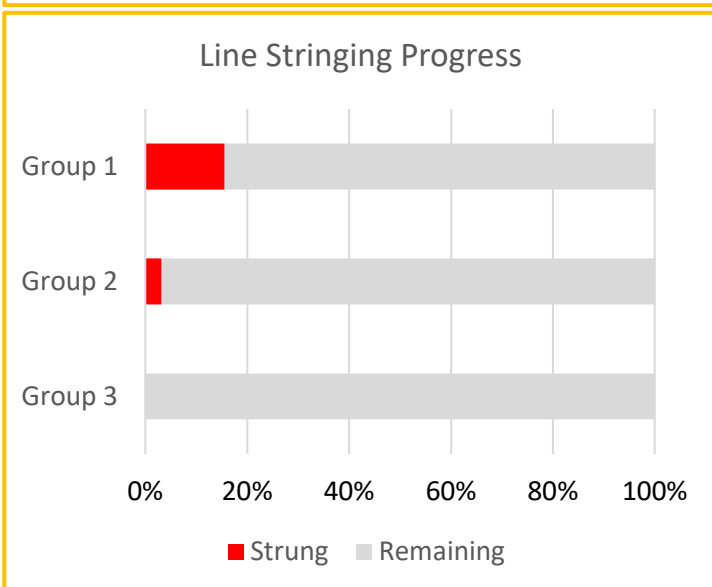
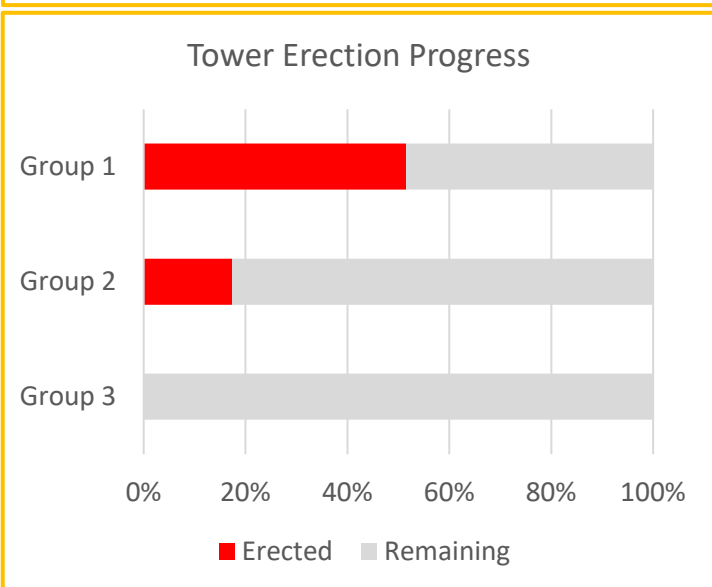
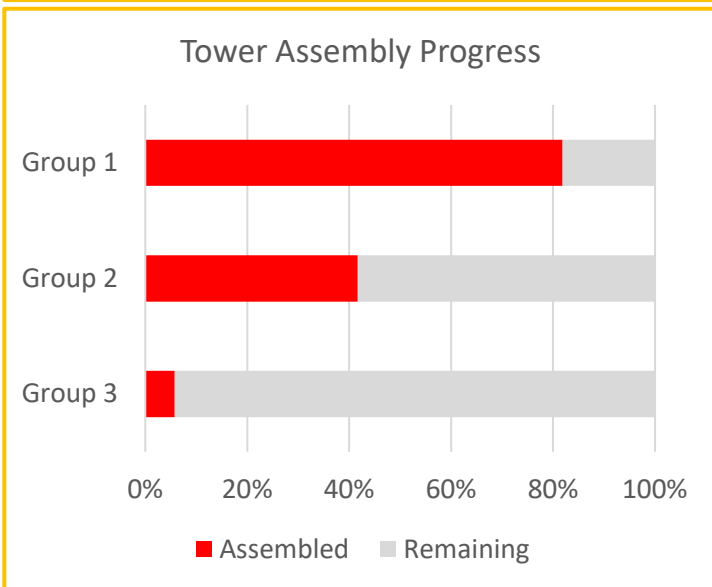
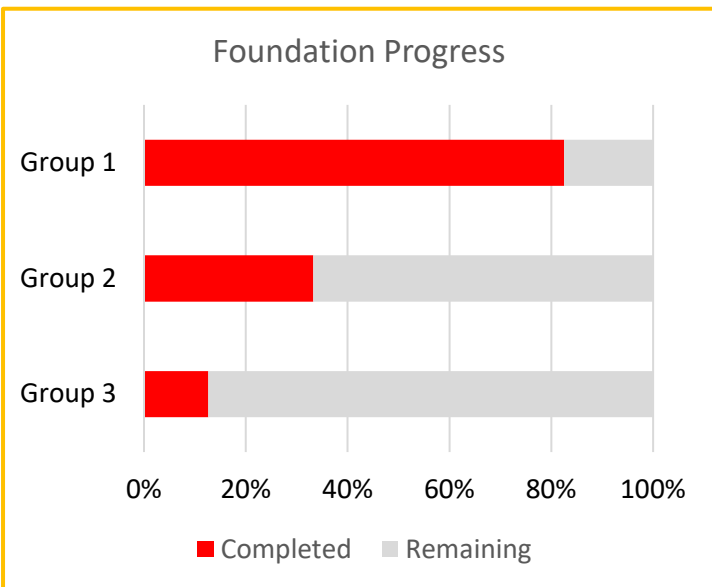
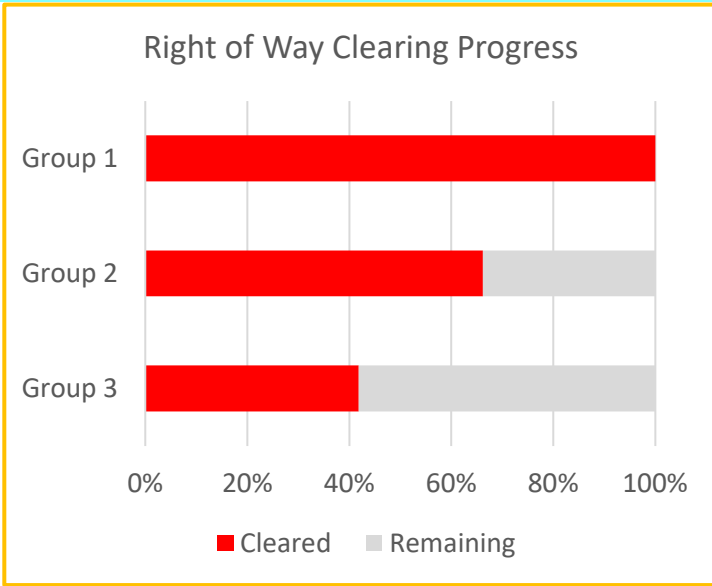
- During these unprecedented times, Wataynikaneyap Power LP ("Wataynikaneyap Power") is in the construction phase of building critical infrastructure to connect remote First Nation communities to the electricity grid (the "Project").
- The objective of Wataynikaneyap Power is to continue with aspects 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 May 29, 2021

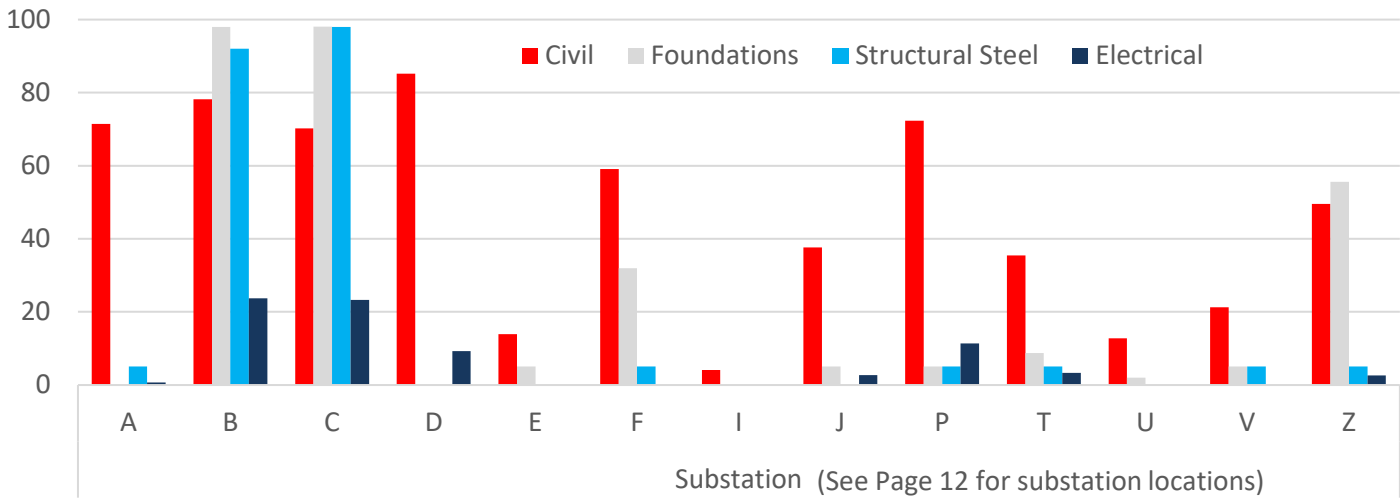
Valard began work on the Project in October of 2019. Some of the areas that have been progressing include:

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

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



Substation Construction Progress (% complete as of May 29, 2021)



Employment

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 Level 1-2, Environmental Monitor, Assemblers	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, Community Support Partner, Community Indigenous Relations Advisor	Until filled	Forward resumes to: watay-resumes@valard.com or projectjobs@oslp.ca . Questions? Call Valard at 780-986-6180
YATAW CAMPS AND CATERING (JV Partner to 5 communities)		
Camp Manager, Camp Administrator, Head Chef, Cooks, Bakers, Kitchen Support, Housekeeper, Maintenance	Ongoing	Ask your Community Liaison for job details. Contact Heidi Forsyth: hforsyth@dexterra.com
SYNTERRA SECURITY SOLUTIONS (JV Partner to 3 communities)		
Licensed Security Guard, Yard Attendant	Ongoing	Ask your Community Liaison for job details. Send resumes to: ann@synterra.ca
SIGFUSSON GROUP LP (JV Partner to 2 communities)		
Skilled Labourer, Dozer and Excavator Operators	Ongoing	Ask your Community Liaison for job details. Send resume and two references to: HR@sigfusson.ca or gpower@sigfusson.ca
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

Valard Employee Spotlight



Brennon Quill
Sachigo Lake
First Nation
 Level 1 Assembler



My name is Brennon Quill and I'm from Sachigo Lake First Nation. My home community is Sioux Lookout, Ontario. My job title is Level 1 Assembler and I started work on August 1st, 2020. The thing I like about working the project is that I get to work close to my First Nation. Working my way to Sachigo Lake is one of my goals on the job which will be very soon (December). What I like about working with the crew members is that they are patient. They teach me how to assemble a tower with ease.

Reporting to work every day and getting up in the morning teaches self discipline and that's what gets me going each and every day. For every rotation, I don't think about the money. I like my job and I'm passionate about it. It affects my family in a positive way because they get to spend time on their own without me in the picture which is a good thing because they also have their own lives.

My advice is that working hard, looking for opportunities, and being a well-balanced worker on the job will benefit you greatly. I value working hard; it will make me a better person and an all-around better worker. Going to college in Sudbury, Ontario has helped me get my job because I went there for the Heavy Equipment Technician program, which got me into being a mechanic during my first rotation.

I like the camp life for its nice cuisine, the nice weight room and comfortable living quarters. In my spare time I like to play sports. I like music and travelling on my days off.

Want to Work on the Wataynikaneyap Project?

ADD YOURSELF TO THE LABOUR POOL DATABASE!

Head to the labour pool site at: <https://www.oslp.ca/labour-pool> and click the "Sign Up" 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 Resumé Builder!

Have employment questions? Need Help?

Please see your local Community Liaison,

or contact **Elaine Keesick, Indigenous Recruitment and Retention Advisor,**

Opiikapawiin Services LP at e.keesick@oslp.ca or (807) 633-7446.

Subcontractor Employee Spotlight

**Ashley Kenequanash**

North Caribou Lake First Nation
Camp Manager



Boosho, my name is Ashley Kenequanash from North Caribou Lake First Nation.

June 14th marks one year since I started with Yataw/Outland. I applied for Housekeeping but was then offered Administrative Assistant. I was nervous, shy and stuttering. It took a while to get comfortable, to get into a routine, but I did it. I trained in the office and housekeeping. Eventually I started training other housekeepers and sending them to other sites. After a while I took on more responsibilities, being trained and mentored by two of the best camp managers I've ever met. Eventually I got promoted to Camp Manager in February 2021. I enjoy working on the project because I'm able to witness the progression, how it'll benefit the First Nation communities and future youth. The staff I work with are amazing; we're like family when we're not with our families at home.

As hard as your path may seem, you can reach your goals. It took a lot of hard work, patience, diligence and communication, but once you set your mind to what you want in life, you'll get there. I still have a lot to learn but I'm proud of where I am today.

Job Opportunities!

OUTLAND & horizon north

* in partnership with
owner communities*

are hiring for camp positions across Groups 1, 2 and 3.

Positions include: *Camp Manager, Chef, Baker, Cook, Kitchen Helper, Housekeeper, Janitor and Driver.*

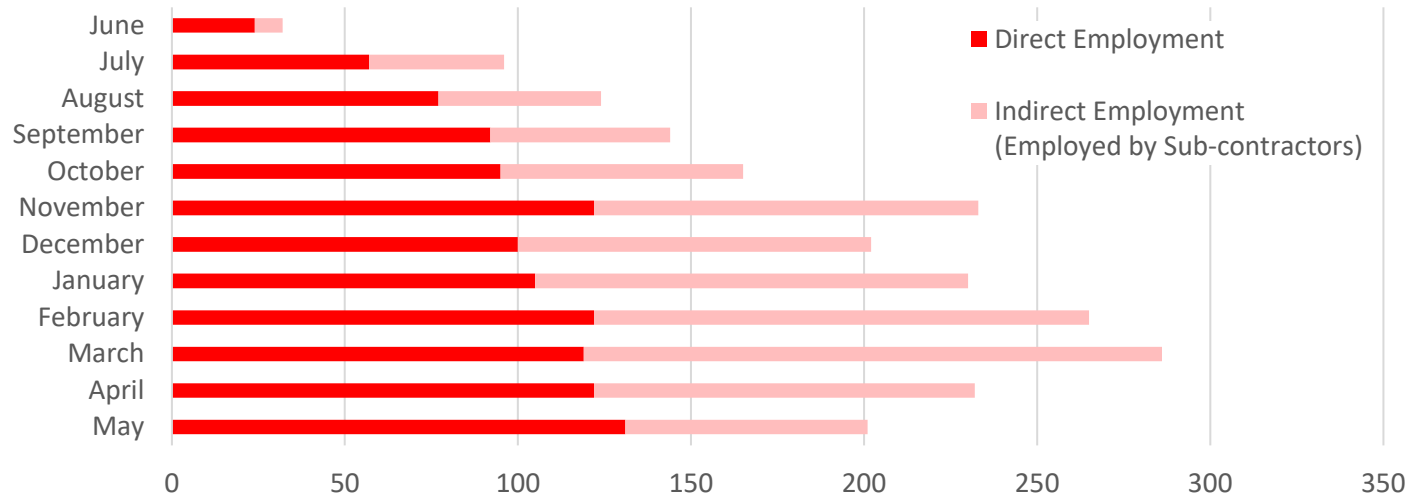
Details on active positions can be found at <https://www.oslp.ca/careers>

There are many work locations available across the Wataynikaneyap Power Project:

- **Yataw Camps and Logistics** is busy serving clients in Sioux Lookout and Slate Falls.
- **Mishkeegogamang-Outland** operates three (3) camps in Pickle Lake and Pipestone.
- **Whitefeather-Outland** welcomes guests at Junction Camp north of Red Lake.
- **Omekanhkay-Outland** is providing services at Knox Lake, North Spirit Lake and Deer Lake camps.
- **ThawiKayhiGan-Horizon** is pleased to welcome you to the camp at Kingfisher Lake.

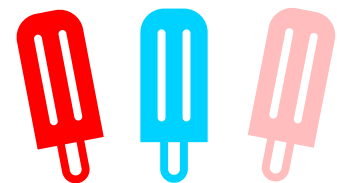
We encourage applicants from all owner communities!

Monthly Participating First Nation Employee Information – June 2020 through May 2021



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

Indigenous Participation by Activity	% of Total Project hours worked by Valard Participating First Nation Employees									
	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
Assembly	44	40	45	39	40	35	41	42	53	
Environment	Not reported.					31	25	26	25	
Foundations and Anchors (Valard Crews only)	10	12	15	20	17	15	16	17	24	
Survey (Geomatics)	7	8	8	10	8	15	12	11	12	
Guy Wire	37	31	27	25	27	27	34	22	17	
Material Handling	18	17	26	29	28	23	24	21	22	
Grounding	Not reported.					12	21	21	19	
Hauling	Not reported.					4	5	6	5	



Happy assembly crew worker **Stephen Wynn** from **Bearskin Lake First Nation** poses for a photo after finishing up with assembling a structure on the right of way towards North Caribou Lake First Nation.

Education, Training and Capacity Building

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.

Please note that training dates may be affected due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. Affected training dates will commence once it's safe to move forward.

For further details, contact

Laura Calmwind, Training Program Manager: l.calmwind@oslp.ca, (807) 630-2196.

Upcoming Training Opportunities



Contact Laura Calmwind if you're interested in training opportunities.

Training Program	Offered by:	Training Dates	Details
Line Crew Ground Support	OSLP	Aug - Nov 2021	Line Crew Ground Support (LCGS) is a certificate course that includes climbing at heights, operating equipment, classroom learning and training outdoors. The program is specifically designed with 25 certified courses that will prepare participants to work on a powerline construction ground crew and apply for apprenticeships. After offering five LCGS courses, an all-women course is being offered for 14 weeks planned for the Fall of 2021 to encourage women to join the powerline work crews. For information about the program, and to obtain a link to the online information sessions, contact your Community Liaison or Laura Calmwind.
Community-Based Certified Mechanical Harvesting	OSLP	TBD	For experienced heavy equipment operators. Training includes OHSWA 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. To be hosted by one of the Participating First Nations (PFN).
Security Guard Certificate Training	OSLP	TBD	Security Guard Training will be delivered over 1 week online with an in-person exam, or with an instructor in Sioux Lookout with an in-person exam at the end of the program. The delivery option is pending on the COVID-19 restrictions. No previous experience required. Must be 18+ and must complete a criminal reference check.
Remote Camp Cook and Camp Services	OSLP	TBD	8 weeks total with 6 weeks of hands-on training and 2 weeks training on the job. Learn Western and traditional culinary skills, safety certificates, nutrition, kitchen management, and teamwork. Talk to your Community Liaison or Laura Calmwind for more information.
Ganawenjigewin Environmental Protection Training	OSLP	Fall 2021	This 4-week hands-on training is a land-based program for Indigenous-led environmental monitoring. It provides hand-on instruction in Indigenous Ecological Knowledge and Western Science.
Powerline Construction and Work Readiness	OSLP	TBD	2 Weeks total. To be hosted by one of the PFN. Planning is ongoing. Watch for announcements.
Pre-Employment Training Sessions	OSLP	TBD	A 4-week program to enhance employability and life skills. Delivery in nine PFN communities and 1 regional session from April 2021 to March 2022.

Community Liaison Profile



Barry Meekis
*Deer Lake First
 Nation*

Barry Meekis is the Community Liaison for Deer Lake First Nation. His favourite part of the job is working with the people and attending training workshops where he gets to connect with new people and strengthen his skills for working on the job.

“It is cool to be working on a project that will positively impact future generations.”

When he is not working on the project, his favourite way to spend time is out on the land, especially fishing.

For more information on the Wataynikaneyap Project, reach out to your Community Liaison, Barry Meekis.

Email: bear7462@yahoo.ca

Phone: (807) 212-4096



A crew works with an off-road crane to lift pieces of a freestanding structure into place and bolt them together. Workers are harnessed in and tied off for safety.



A helicopter picks up a stringing rope from a line stringing crew. The first step in stringing is to pull a rope through the travelers (temporary pulleys that are hanging from the structure). Then a conductor (line that carries electricity) gets attached to the end of the rope and pulled through. This way the conductor never touches the ground, where it could be damaged and cause future issues.



Stringing crew workers often get picked up by helicopter after attaching travellers (that wheel that allows ropes, then cables to be pulled through from one structure to the next). The first thing they need to do is connect a safety line to the helicopter before stepping on.

Send your resumes to:

projectjobs@oslp.ca

&

watay-resumes@valard.com



Photo credits: Al Hacker

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 (807) 620-1902.

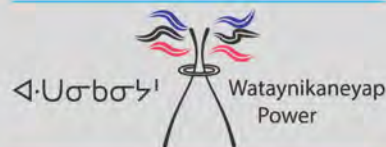


Radio Shows/Live Videoconference



Wataynikaneyap and Opiikapawiin Services have conducted community-specific radio shows/live videoconferences in nine (9) communities: Bearskin Lake, Deer Lake, Keewaywin, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, Kingfisher Lake, Poplar Hill, Sachigo Lake, Wunnumin Lake, and North Spirit Lake, to provide Project updates, COVID-19 updates, Indigenous participation updates, and to answer questions from PFN members! **Stay tuned for when we virtually “visit” your community next or ask your community liaison!**

Did you know?



There have been over 14 years of ongoing engagement to finalize the **Wataynikaneyap Transmission Line Project plan.**



- Wataynikaneyap (originally known as CCEG) was given the mandate by 13 Chiefs in October 2008 to pursue the planning and development of an electrical transmission line, owned by the communities, to connect 10 communities (now grown to 17) to the provincial electricity grid.
- The Wataynikaneyap Transmission Line is majority owned by 24 First Nations - it is a community-led Project that only advances under the Guiding Principles provided by leadership and supported by our partners Fortis Inc. and other private investors.

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”.

- **Timber Bulletin** – arrangements for accessing timber from the right of way; description of burn process
- **COVID Bubble** – how Wataynikaneyap and Valard are managing the spread of COVID-19 on the project
- **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/opportunities and survey programs
- **Spills Awareness Initiative** – Aims to highlight the project’s spill response program

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:

- Access Matting
- Administration Services
- Aggregate Supply and Delivery
- Air Transport
- Blasting
- Camp Construction and Infrastructure
- Camp Services
- Catering
- Clearing and Access
- Communication Services
- Drilling
- Dunnage and Lumber Supply
- Electrical, Plumbing and Utilities
- Environmental Services
- Engineering
- Earthwork and Construction
- Support
- Equipment Rentals
- Excavation Services
- Fencing
- Foundations
- Freight
- Fuel Supply and Transportation
- Geotechnical and Soil Services
- Heavy Civil Construction
- Health and Safety Services
- Helicopter Services
- Machining and Fabrication
- Medic and First Response
- Prefabricated Steel Structures
- Propane Mobile Tank and Trailer
- Portable Bridges
- Rentals
- Rigmat Rentals
- Road Construction and Maintenance
- ROW Clearing
- Safety Training
- Sewage
- Security Services
- Site Maintenance
- Substation
- Survey (Construction and Legal)
- Trucking and Logistics
- Waste Management
- Water Delivery
- Welding
- Winter Road Maintenance

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 **OR** Ivan Donio, Indigenous Strategic Sourcing Advisor - i.donio@oslp.ca, Office: (807) 474-3300 ext. 211, Cell: (807) 633-4856.



Temporary access matting is being removed from a site near Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation. The matting is used to preserve access during wetter conditions and protect the land from rutting. It will be shifted to a new work site. Many of the participating First Nations have formed matting joint ventures to provide this type of service to the project.

Project Successes!



So far 23 of the 24 Participating First Nations are involved in Joint Venture partnerships on the Project!

One (1) individual member business from Lac Seul First Nation is a subcontractor on the Project.



Currently, the OSLP business directory has over 400 entries! Interested in including your business or JV on the business registry? See below!

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.

Questions or Concerns 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



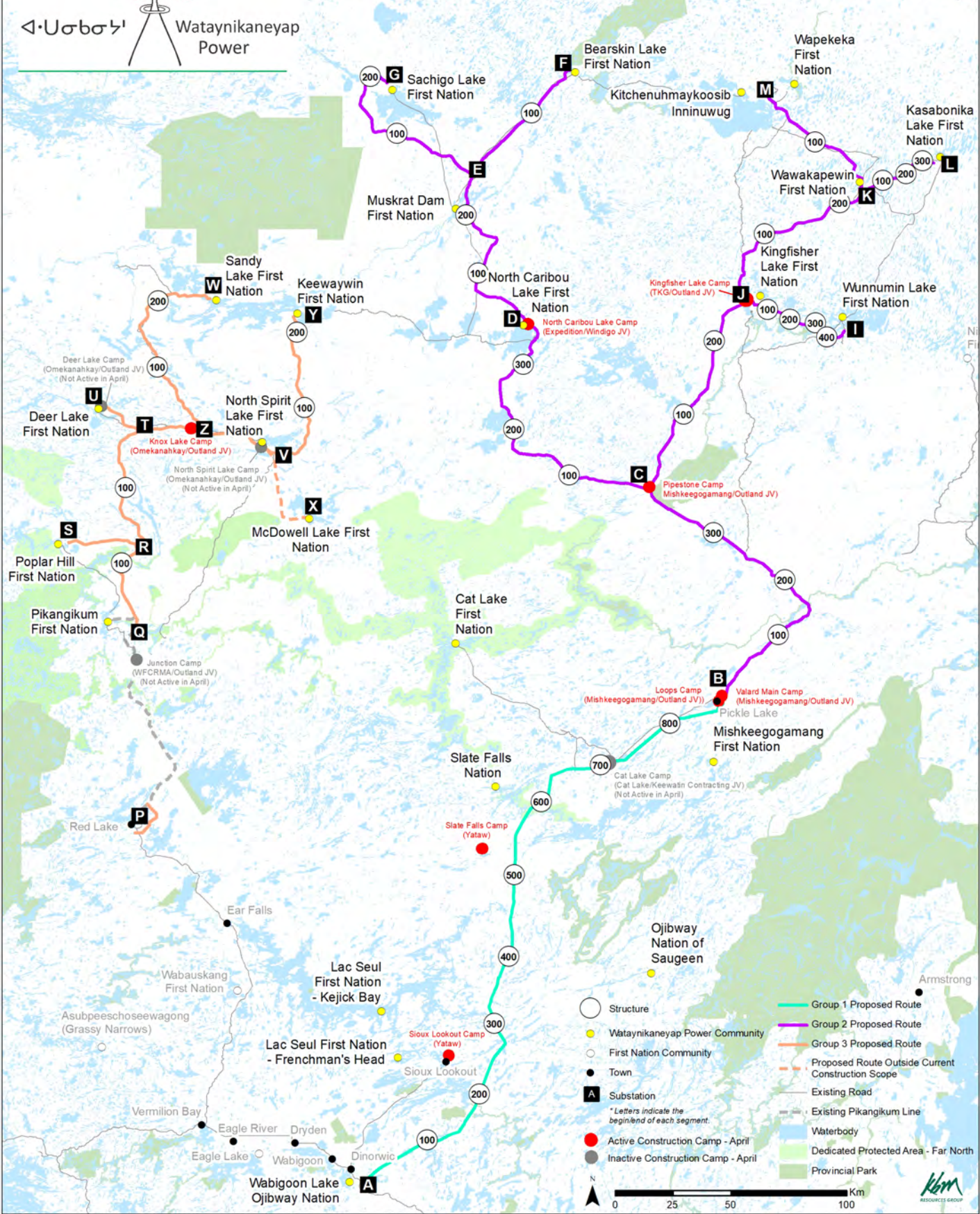
Other Sources of Information

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/WataynikaneyapPower	<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



Wataynikaneyap Power

WATAYNIKANEYAP POWER



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

For a more detailed map of construction progress, visit: <https://www.oslp.ca/construction-progress>