

# Wataynikaneyap Power & Opiikapawiiin Services

## Indigenous Participation Update

Photo Credit: Rod Duffy

A line-up of insulators with travelers attached are laid out and ready to be picked up by helicopter. They will be lifted to stringing crew members and hung on the “arms” of each structure. The red “fly arms” are designed to be highly visible. The purpose of the “fly arms” is to create a large target for the placement of the pilot rope that is flown by a helicopter. The pilot rope is then used to pull the conductor through the travelers.

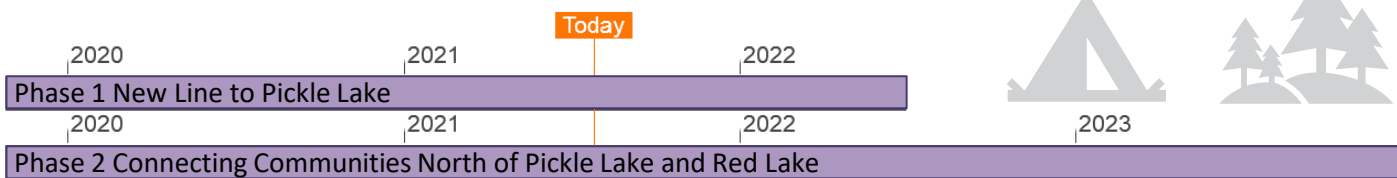
### Opiikapawiiin and Wataynikaneyap

Opiikapawiiin Services LP provides a variety of services to Wataynikaneyap Power through a service agreement. Opiikapawiiin 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. Opiikapawiiin is owned 100% by 24 First Nations.

Opiikapawiiin’s services include:

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

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



\* Schedule is subject to change

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### COVID-19 and the Project

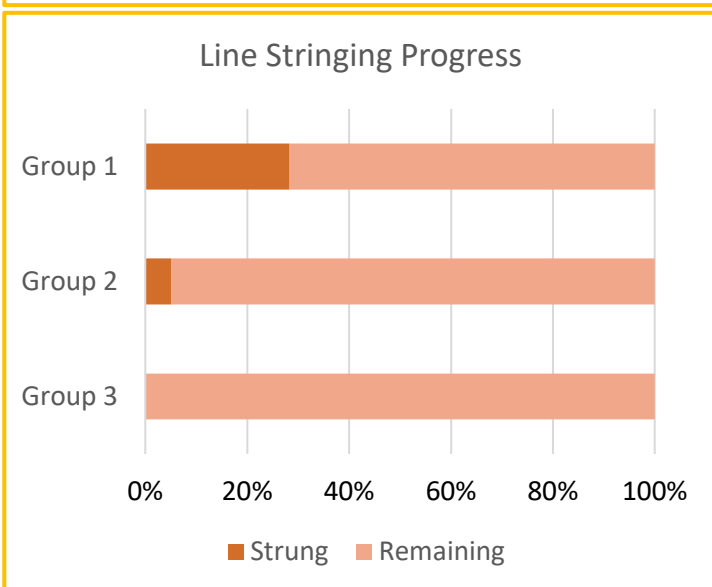
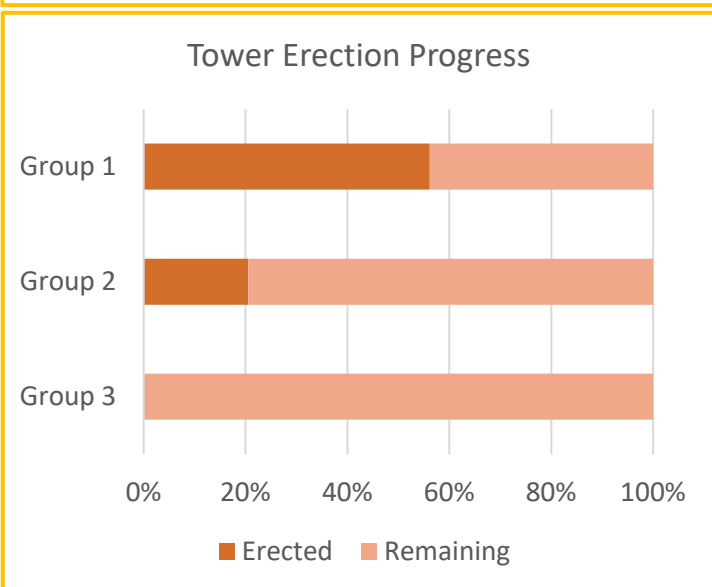
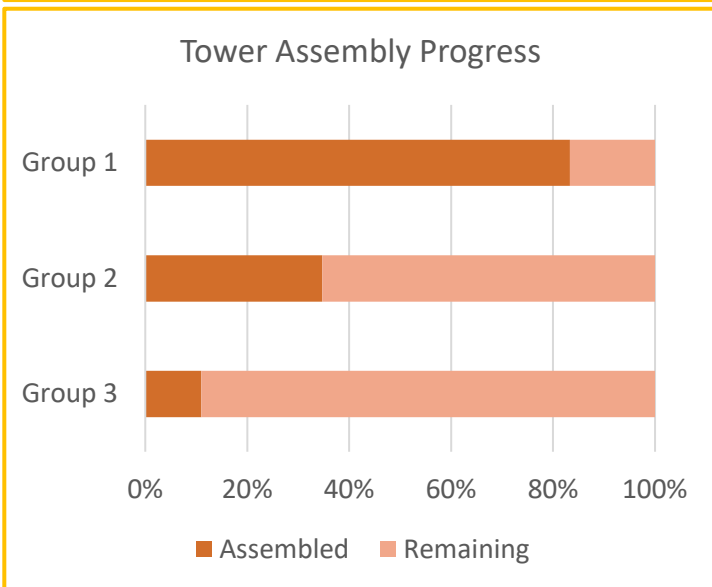
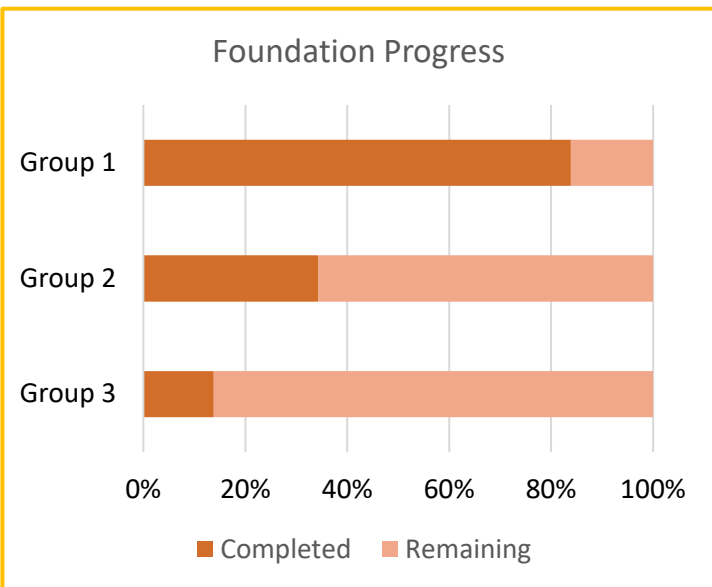
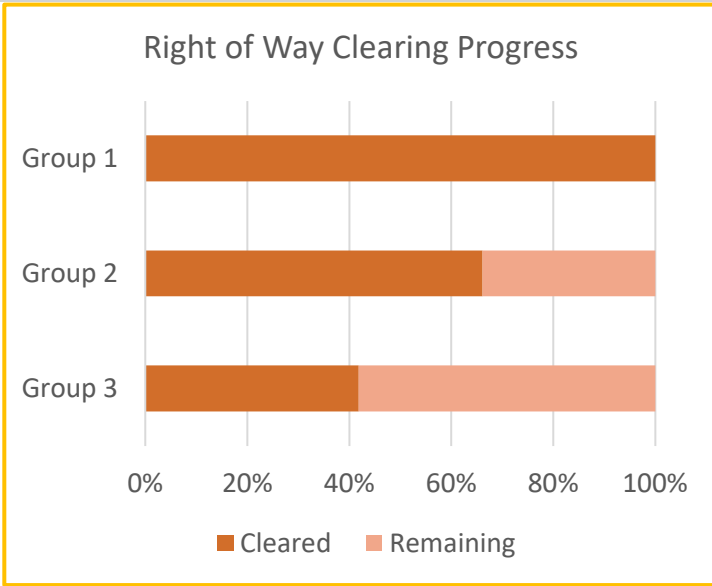
- During these unprecedented times, Wataynikaneyap Power LP ("Wataynikaneyap Power") is in the construction phase of building critical infrastructure to connect remote First Nation communities to the electricity grid (the "Project").
- The objective of Wataynikaneyap Power is to continue with aspects 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 July 3, 2021

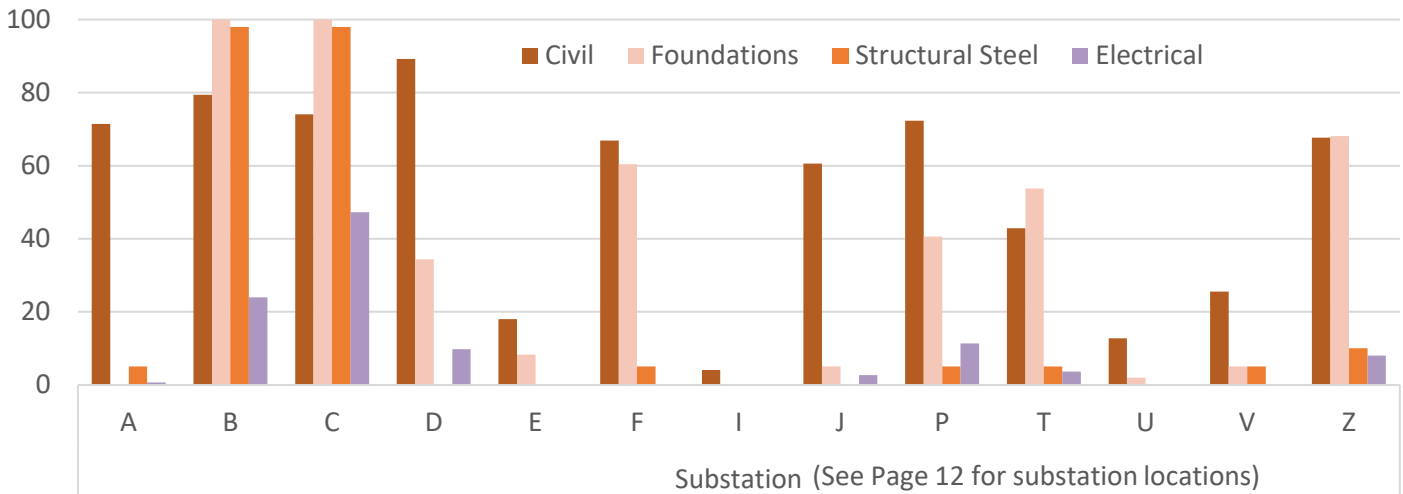
Valard began work on the Project in October of 2019. Some of the areas that have been progressing include:

- 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 July 3, 2021)



## Substation Photos!

Upon completion, there will be twenty-two (22) substations & switching stations servicing the Wataynikaneyap power line!



Here is a peek inside a substation control room that each of the substations will have. The control buildings get shipped to the site pre-assembled. This one is on a flatbed at Kingfisher Lake First Nation waiting to be installed. These cabinets hold monitoring, communications, and control hardware that allow the substation to function. They also give remote operators a clear picture of what is happening at the substation and the ability to control equipment as needed and/or determine if maintenance is required.



A crew installs buswork (metal tubes that carry electricity) at the Pickle Lake Substation. This is where the 230kV line from Wabigoon/Dinorwic changes to the 115kV line serving communities north of Pickle Lake.

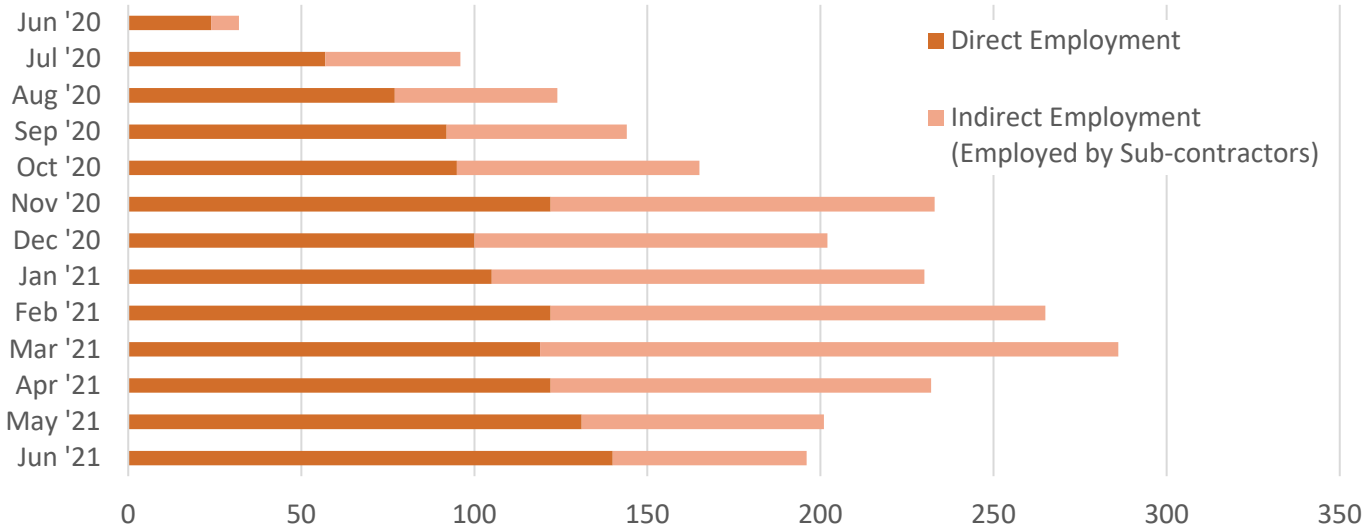


Substation Foundations being installed at North Caribou Lake First Nation.



A containment pad at the Red Lake substation is ready for concrete pouring. This will protect the land in the unlikely event that there is a coolant leak from power equipment. The raised area in the center is where a transformer will sit.

Monthly Participating First Nation Employee Information –  
June 2020 through June 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	Jun	
Assembly	44	40	45	39	40	35	41	42	53	55	
Environment	Not reported.					31	25	26	25	27	
Foundations and Anchors (Valard Crews only)	10	12	15	20	17	15	16	17	24	22	
Survey (Geomatics)	7	8	8	10	8	15	12	11	12	11	
Guy Wire	37	31	27	25	27	27	34	22	17	13	
Material Handling	18	17	26	29	28	23	24	21	22	20	
Grounding	Not reported.					12	21	21	19	12	
Hauling	Not reported.					4	5	6	5	6	

Boots on the Ground



Check out the Valard website, which now includes a “Boots on the Ground” section featuring testimonies by community members who work on the Project!



SCHEDULE    PROGRESS    JOBS    CONTACT US

<https://www.valard-watay.com/project-overview/boots-on-the-ground>

**BOOTS ON THE GROUND**



## 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	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 Opiikapawiin website ( <a href="https://www.oslp.ca/careers">https://www.oslp.ca/careers</a> ) or the Opiikapawiin Facebook page ( <a href="http://www.facebook.com/OpiikapawiinServicesLP">www.facebook.com/OpiikapawiinServicesLP</a> ).
Indigenous Construction Liaison/Knowledge Holder, Community Support Partner, Community Indigenous Relations Advisor	Until filled	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 Valard at 780-986-6180
<b>YATAW CAMPS AND CATERING (JV Partner to 6 communities)</b>		
Camp Manager, Camp Administrator, Head Chef, Cooks, Bakers, Kitchen Support, Housekeeper, Maintenance, Janitorial, Housekeeping	Ongoing	Ask your Community Liaison for job details. Contact Heidi Forsyth: <a href="mailto:hforsyth@dexterra.com">hforsyth@dexterra.com</a>
<b>SYNTERRA SECURITY SOLUTIONS (JV Partner to 6 communities)</b>		
Licensed Security Guard, Yard Attendant	Ongoing	Ask your Community Liaison for job details. Send resumes to: <a href="mailto:ann@synterra.ca">ann@synterra.ca</a>
<b>SIGFUSSON GROUP LP (JV Partner to 8 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 5 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>

## Employment Update

## Powerline Technician or Electrical Apprenticeship

We highly regard Capacity Building in each community as top priority as we move forward on the Project. One of our goals is to ensure that each community has community members equipped with the training, knowledge and skills to be able to either maintain or assist in maintaining the lines once the Project is complete and the line is energized. One of the initiatives is getting employed members signed up for a **Powerline Technician** or **Electrical Apprenticeship**. Currently there are 14 active apprentices from various PFN communities, in addition to 11 that are pending. Interested in signing up for an apprenticeship? Contact Elaine Keesick, Recruitment and Retention Advisor ([e.keesick@oslp.ca](mailto:e.keesick@oslp.ca) / 807-633-7446) or Geoffrey Otto, Employment Supports Coordinator ([g.otto@oslp.ca](mailto:g.otto@oslp.ca) / 807-620-5219) for more information.



Please note that due to the dry summer this year, forest fires are a hazard and communities are being evacuated, which may add to challenges of employment on the Project.

## Employment Update (Continued)

Members who have sent resumes in and are waiting for employment should continue to check out the Wataynikaneyap Labour Pool Database. We also advise you to follow up on the status of your employment with Elaine Keesick, *Recruitment and Retention Advisor* ([e.keesick@oslp.ca](mailto:e.keesick@oslp.ca) / 807-633-7446) or Geoffrey Otto, *Employment Supports Coordinator* ([g.otto@oslp.ca](mailto:g.otto@oslp.ca) / 807-620-5219)

### 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. If your profile on the Wataynikaneyap Labour Pool Database is not approved in a couple days, please contact Elaine Keesick or Geoffrey Otto.

**FORGOT/LOST YOUR PASSWORD?** Once your profile has been approved, you will receive an email to reset your password (please check your spam or junk folder). If you can’t find the email, or if you lose your password, you can set or change your password any time from the home page. Simply click the “forgot password” link, and the system will send you an email with a new link to change your password.

Already in the Labour Pool Database? **Don’t forget to update the information on your profile, including your address, e-mail, phone, information, and resume.**

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

### NOTE TO K-NET E-MAIL USERS

Individuals who have a Knet email address are asked to please update your email address as the Knet domain is no longer valid. It has been brought to our attention that employers are unable to get ahold of you as your information isn’t up to date.

## Don’t Have a Resumé? Try the Resumé Builder!

For members who require a resume, the Resume Builder is included in the Database for your benefit. It helps you to create a resume and from there you can apply for the jobs that are posted in the Jobs tab.

#### To save a copy of your resume:

- Click ‘Print’, under Printer
- Select the drop down arrow, and select ‘Adobe PDF’
- Save it to your files. From here you can upload it to your Profile and use it to apply for jobs posted.

#### To apply for Jobs:

- Go to the “Jobs” tab.
- Select the job (highlighted in blue) that you want to apply for and follow the instructions.

### STAY TUNED FOR THE ONLINE RESUME BUILDER SESSIONS!

Dates are TBD, However notices will be sent to your Community Liaison and posted to your community bulletins, Facebook, etc. More information to follow.

**If you have any questions or require assistance on any of the above items, please contact**

#### Elaine Keesick

*Indigenous Recruitment & Retention Advisor*

E-mail: [e.keesick@oslp.ca](mailto:e.keesick@oslp.ca)

Direct: (807) 474-3300 ext. 210

Cell: (807) 633-7446

#### Geoffrey Otto

*Employment Supports Coordinator*

E-mail: [g.otto@oslp.ca](mailto:g.otto@oslp.ca)

Direct: (807) 474-3300 ext. 261

Cell: (807) 620-5219

## 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.

**Training dates may be affected due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. Training will start once it's safe.**

For further details on this or on any of the below training opportunities, please contact **Laura Calmwind**, Training Program Manager: [l.calmwind@oslp.ca](mailto:l.calmwind@oslp.ca), (807) 630-2196.

Training Program	Training Dates	Details
<b>Line Crew Ground Support</b>	Aug 16 <sup>th</sup> - - Nov 19 <sup>th</sup> 2021	Line Crew Ground Support (LCGS) is a certificate course that includes climbing at heights, operating equipment, classroom learning and training outdoors. The program includes 25 certified courses that will prepare participants to work on a powerline construction ground crew and apply for apprenticeships. After delivering five LCGS courses, an all-women training course is being offered for 14 weeks in the Fall of 2021 to encourage women to secure employment in the powerline industry. This program is the first of its kind in Canada. For information about the program, and to obtain a link to the online information sessions, contact your Community Liaison or Laura Calmwind.
<b>Remote Camp Cook and Camp Services</b>	Aug – Sept 2021	8 weeks total with 6 weeks of hands-on training and 2 weeks training on the job. Fourteen trainees have been selected. Trainees will learn Western and traditional culinary skills, safety certificates, nutrition, kitchen management, and teamwork. Four information sessions have been delivered to prepare interested applicants.
<b>Ganawenjigewin Environmental Protection Training</b>	Sept 1 – Oct 1 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. Twelve trainees will be selected. Second delivery of the program will be held at the Mahkwa Lodge on Lac Seul First Nation.
<b>Pre-Employment Training Sessions</b>	Sept – Oct 2021	A 4-week program to enhance employability and life skills. Ten PET sessions will be delivered from Sept 2021 to March 2022. First of the ten is a regional session, with two community-based deliveries planned for 2021 and seven more in 2022. See newsletter insert for more details!
<b>Security Guard Certificate Training</b>	Fall 2021	Security Guard Training will be delivered over 1 week either online or with an instructor. An in-person exam completes the program. The delivery option is pending on COVID-19 restrictions. No previous experience required. Must be 18+ and must complete a criminal reference check to be licensed. Ten trainees will participate in site training either in Thunder Bay or Sioux Lookout in the Fall. Interviews and final selection of trainees is scheduled for late July 2021.
<b>Powerline Construction and Work Readiness</b>	TBD	2 Weeks total. This is a community-based training designed to prepare community members to secure employment in the Powerline Industry. Included in the training plan is training specific to the needs of the community. To be hosted by one of the PFN pending COVID status. Planning is ongoing. Watch for announcements.
<b>Community-Based Certified Mechanical Harvesting</b>	TBD	For experienced heavy equipment operators. Training includes OHS 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 two PFN's, pending COVID status.

## Community Liaison Profile



## Jennifer Fiddler

*Bearskin Lake First Nation*

**Phone:** (807) 363-2511 or (807) 738-0635

**Email:** [jenniferf@michikan.ca](mailto:jenniferf@michikan.ca)




Jennifer Fiddler has been working as the community liaison for Bearskin Lake First Nation since November 2020. Some of the most important parts of her role include assisting with programs and activities within the community, checking in on project workers, sparking the community's interest of the project, and sharing what is going on with the project with her community.

Her favourite part of the job is the learning involved with her position and meeting new people even if it's currently through the phone and in virtual conference settings.

"To me the project means improving our communities for future generations and helping to bring the community up-to-date with the rest of the world by improving the infrastructure and economy."

When Jennifer is not working on the Wataynikeneyap project, she likes to spend time outdoors and be with her family and friends whether that's fishing, camping, or hunting. Once COVID-19 restrictions ease up, she looks forward to meeting new people on the project and seeing new faces in-person.


 A photograph showing a construction worker in a yellow hard hat and safety vest working on a large metal structure, likely a tower foundation, on a wooden mat.
 

A worker checks the torque of a tower foundation on recently assembled timber mats as part of the quality assurance process. Each bolt needs to be checked before the foundation is buried!

**Interested in working on the project? Send your resume to:** [watay-resumes@valard.com](mailto:watay-resumes@valard.com) and [projectjobs@oslp.ca](mailto:projectjobs@oslp.ca)!



Subcontractor Profile: TKG – BBH – Superior Strategies Supply and Services Joint Venture JV



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**WARRIOR SUPPLIES SPECIALIZING  
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*We look forward to supporting  
the Wataynikaneyap Power  
Project and wish all involved  
a successful and safe project.*



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875 Tungsten St, Thunder Bay, ON, P7B 6H2  
[superior-strategies.ca](http://superior-strategies.ca) | [warriorsupplies.ca](http://warriorsupplies.ca)



## Business Readiness and Procurement of Goods and Services

### 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, Indigenous Strategic Sourcing Advisor, 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



A truck for transporting access mats works between Lac Seul First Nation and Slate Falls Nation. The access mats bridge over soft and wet terrain on the right of way. The use of access mats also minimizes impacts to the land from rutting. The vehicle pictured here is part of a First Nation joint venture business.



**An example of some of the JV work occurring on the Project!** An excavator with a grapple lays out temporary matting at a site toward Kingfisher Lake First Nation. The matting protects the land from excessive rutting and allows access to softer areas.

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

## 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 (807) 620-1902.

### Return to In-Person Engagement

As Ontario and Participating First Nation communities continue to reopen from COVID-19 restrictions, Wataynikaneyap and Opiikapawiin are preparing for a return to in-person engagement. Stay tuned for announcements!



## 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



### 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)

## 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/WataynikaneyapPower">https://www.facebook.com/WataynikaneyapPower</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> 