



Wataynikaneyap Power & Opiikapawiin Services Indigenous Participation Update



North Caribou Lake First Nation Construction Camp

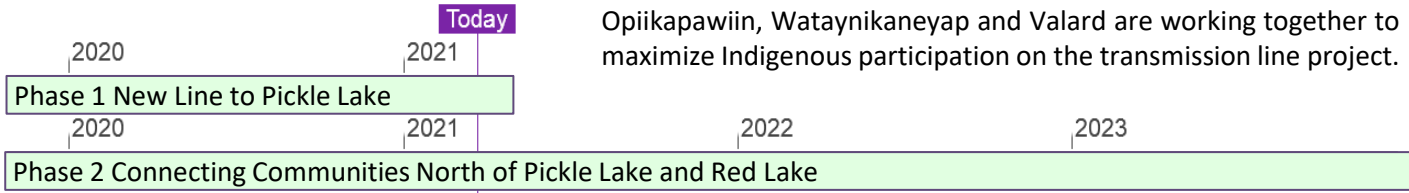
Photo Credit: David Jeremiah

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

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

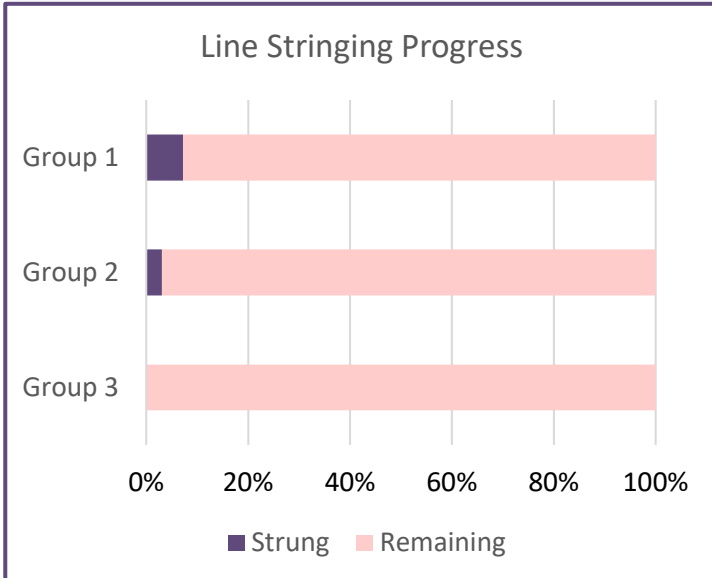
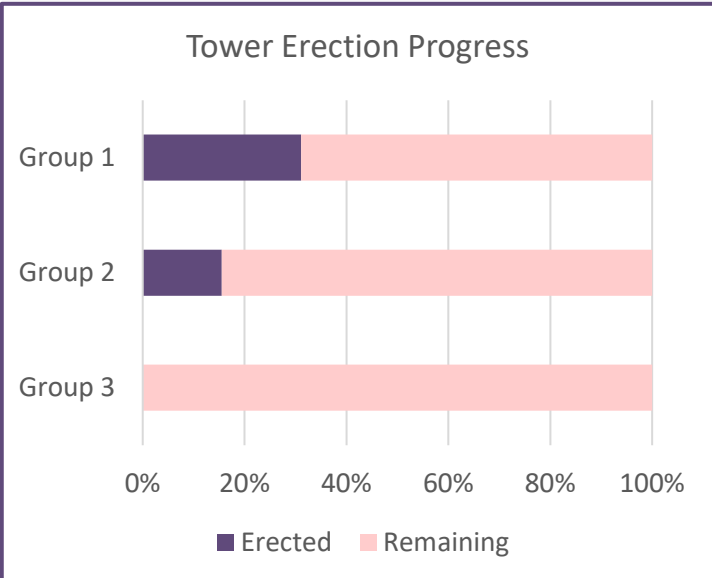
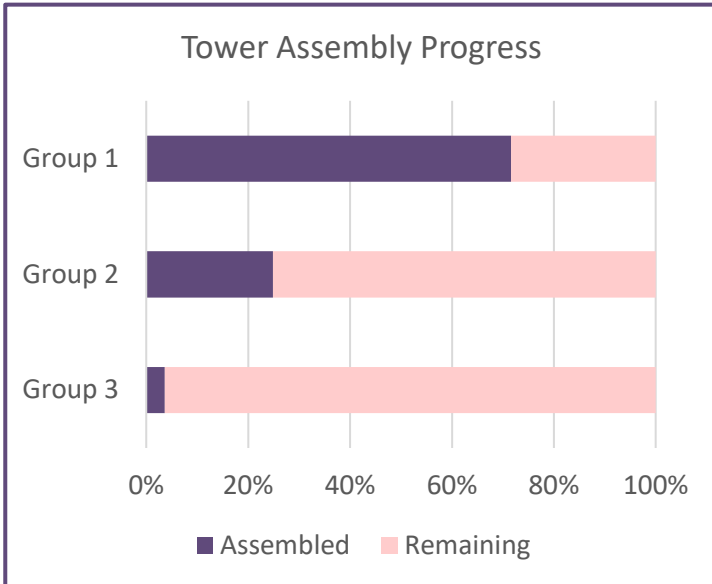
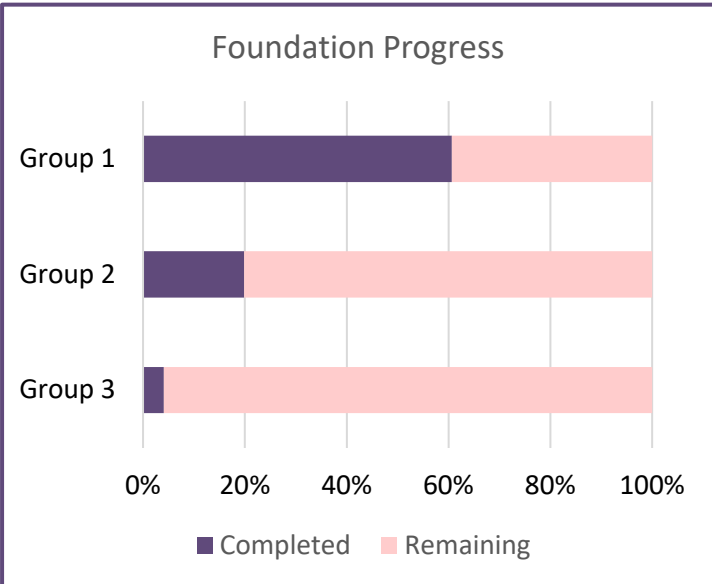
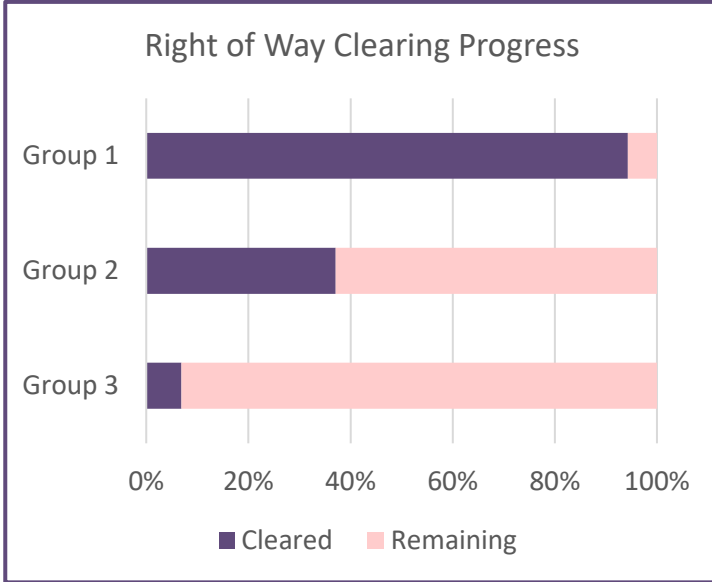
- During these unprecedented times, Wataynikaneyap Power LP ("Wataynikaneyap Power") is in the construction phase of building critical infrastructure to connect remote First Nation communities to the electricity grid (the "Project").
- The objective of Wataynikaneyap Power is to continue with aspects 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 February 27, 2021

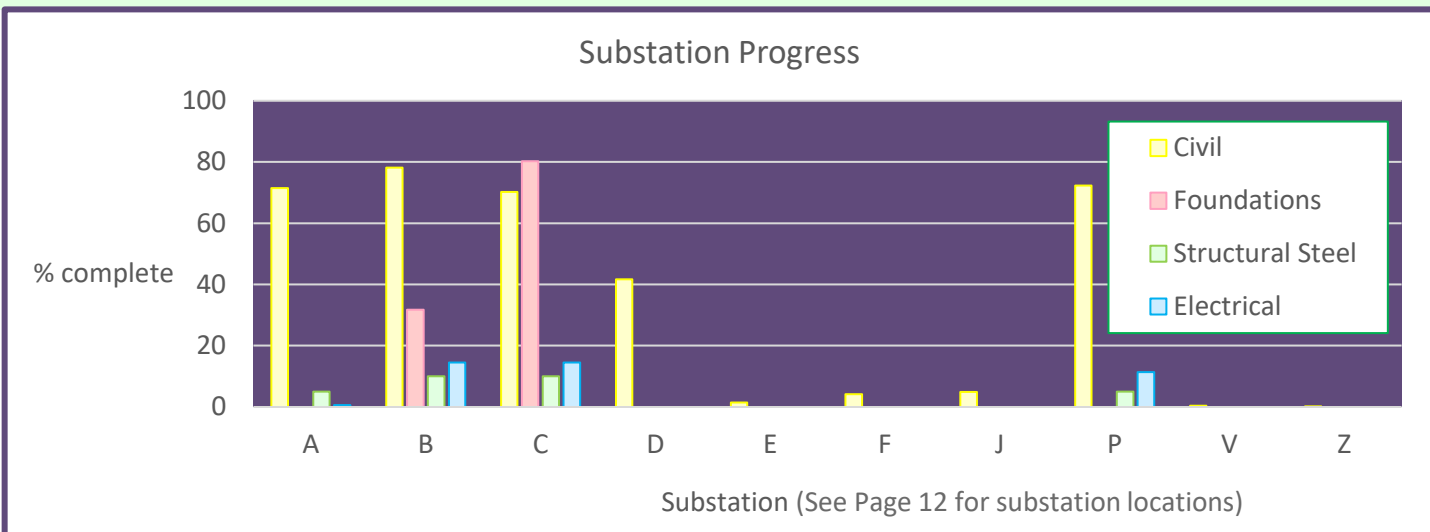
Valard began work on the Project in October of 2019. Some of the areas that have been progressing include:

- 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

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



Substation Construction Progress (up to February 28, 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	
*NEW DEADLINE: Class A Driver, Excavator Operator, Foundations Labourer	May 31, 2021	Forward resumes to: watay-resumes@valard.com or projectjobs@oslp.ca . Questions? Call Valard at 780-986-6180
*NEW DEADLINE: Project Field Quality Inspector – Stringing, Substations, Foundations, Lattice Steel Assembly Erection	May 31, 2021	
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, 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

CONSTRUCTING A SUBSTATION

THERE ARE 10 MAIN STEPS IN CONSTRUCTING A SUBSTATION.

STEP 1 | SURVEY & GEOTECHNICAL STUDIES

Survey crews stake or flag the locations for the station using predetermined GPS coordinates.



STEP 2 | SITE CLEARING & GRADING

The ground is cleared in preparation for construction of the substation pad. This stage may consist of logging, mulching, burning, and clearing of debris, as well as building access trails to the site.



STEP 3 | SUBSTATION PAD CONSTRUCTION

The topsoil on site is stripped to remove any unsuitable native material. Imported fill is then brought in and placed to build up the substation pad. This is completed with heavy equipment.



STEP 4 | BELOW GRADE FACILITIES

Heavy equipment is used to install below grade facilities such as conduits, ground grids and cable trenches.

STEP 5 | FOUNDATIONS

There are three types of foundations typically installed in a substation: helical piles installed with an excavator; driven piles installed with a large piling rig; and concrete cast-in-place type foundations where carpenters frame up forms and pour concrete to create the foundation.



CONSTRUCTING A SUBSTATION

THERE ARE 10 MAIN STEPS IN CONSTRUCTING A SUBSTATION.

STEP 6 | STRUCTURAL STEEL SUPPORT

Structural steel will come in two styles: H-beam, which is large, made of fewer pieces and easier to install; and tubular, which is very similar to h-beam but tubular in form. The steel is then secured to the foundations.

**STEP 7 | ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT**

Major electrical components are installed on the structural steel and foundations. This includes power transformers, breakers, reactors and control buildings trucked in and installed with large cranes.

**STEP 8 | ELECTRICAL BUS WORK**

Once all electrical equipment is installed, and depending on the design of the station, the crew will install the flexible and rigid bus. This is a labour-intensive process, performed manually with manlifts and cranes.

STEP 9 | CABLE PULLING & TERMINATING

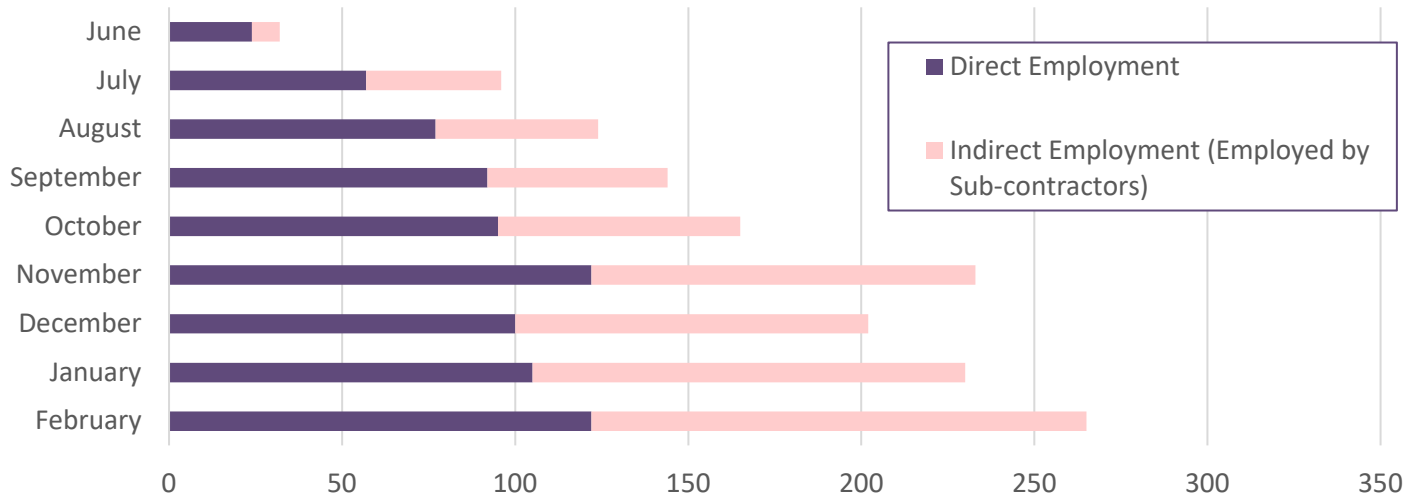
All previously installed major equipment is wired to bring the system online and functionally operational. Cables are pulled to each piece of equipment from the control building and terminated.

STEP 10 | TESTING & COMMISSIONING

The final stage involves technicians performing tests to ensure all equipment will function when energized. Once this is completed, the substation is turned on and begins to provide power to communities.



Monthly Participating First Nation Employee Information – June through February



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

Percentage(%) of Indigenous Participation by Activity	% of Total Project hours worked by Valard Participating First Nation Employees					
	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Assembly	44	40	45	39	40	35
Environment	Not reported.					31
Foundations and Anchors (Valard Crews only)	10	12	15	20	17	15
Survey (Geomatics)	7	8	8	10	8	15
Guy Wire	37	31	27	25	27	27
Material Handling	18	17	26	29	28	23
Grounding	Not reported.					12
Hauling	Not reported.					4

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 640 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!

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.

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.

For further details, contact **Laura Calmwind** Training Coordinator: l.calmwind@oslp.ca, (807) 630-2196.

ONLINE PRE-REMOTE CAMP COOK TRAINING

Opiikapawiin is currently facilitating five (5) online sessions to prepare trainees for the Remote Camp and Cook Training. These sessions commenced in February and topics covered included Indigenous cuisine & culinary skills; information on camps and overall project; available job opportunities; and other work to prepare the trainees for employment within the project camp setting.

Upcoming Training Opportunities



Contact Laura Calmwind if you're interested in 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 (PFN).
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 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 9 PFN communities and 1 regional session from April 2021 to March 2022.
Security Guard Training	OSLP	TBD	10 PFN members to be selected for this 40-hour program that is to be facilitated in Sioux Lookout. Watch for announcements.
Land Based Environmental Monitor Training Program	OSLP	TBD	Planning for Summer 2021. Delivered over 4 weeks and provides hands-on instruction in Indigenous Ecological Knowledge and Western Science.

Business Readiness and Procurement – Business Registry

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

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

Richard Chukra, Indigenous Business Relationships Advisor - r.chukra@oslp.ca, (807) 630-8684 **OR**

Ivan Donio, Indigenous Strategic Sourcing Advisor - i.donio@oslp.ca, (807) 633-4856.

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".

- ****NEW** Timber Bulletin** – arrangements for accessing timber from the right of way; description of burn process
- ****NEW** 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

Ganawenjigewin Environmental Protection Training Program



Lloyd Lawson, Kasabonika Lake First Nation

Lloyd Lawson is from Kasabonika Lake FN. Shortly after graduating from the Ganawenjigewin Environmental Protection Training Program, Lloyd got hired by Valard as an Environmental Monitor.

In his four-week environmental monitoring training program at Quetico, Lloyd learned a lot about cultural knowledge and land-based knowledge, which set him up for success as a monitor for Valard.

Lloyd is enjoying his work for Valard. He is learning a lot from his mentor and is enjoying meeting and getting to know his co-workers at the construction camp. His days are spent travelling and conducting roadside visits of construction sites, monitoring various work areas, and flagging and ensuring wetlands are being protected during construction. He is particularly excited to be helping Giiwedini Environmental Services with Caribou permanent survey plots in the Sioux Lookout Area (Group 1).

Bradley Morris, Muskrat Dam First Nation

Brad Morris is also another graduate of Opiikapawiiin's Ganawenjigewin Environmental Protection Training Program. Bradley's typical day on the job consists of getting up at 4:30 am to have breakfast and pack a lunch. He checks in with the environmental lead at the office at 6:30 am where they check the plan of the day (POD) to see where active construction is happening.

Brad has been paired up with an experienced monitor to show him the ropes. They are out of the office at 7:30am and work in the field until 4:30pm. Upon arrival on site, they remind workers of their environmental responsibilities, follow up on questions, and perform equipment checks. If there is a spill, they make sure the correct actions are taken, and they fill out the required forms.

Brad's work rotation is 21 days working with 8 days off. The teams work in segments and he has currently worked between Sioux Lookout and Pickle Lake. Half is covered by the team out of the Sioux Lookout camp and half is covered by the team from Pickle Lake. They stay busy and cover a lot of distance checking up on project activities. The time goes by fast however shift changes makes for quiet days as there is less activity on the project.

The food in the camp is good - a little too good - and Brad is trying to load up on veggies and use the gyms when they are available. Brad is enjoying the job and looking forward to the continued learning experience.



Graduate Testimonies

Shirley King, Pikangikum First Nation

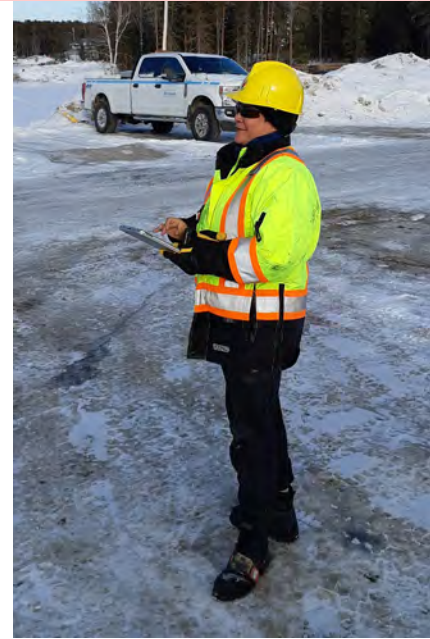


So far so good when it comes to being an Environmental Monitor for Valard. In addition to visiting the construction sites to talk to the workers about environmental issues, Shirley has also had the opportunity to help Giiwedini Environmental Services with the Caribou permanent survey plots. Although they did not observe any signs of caribou there was an abundance of lynx and moose activity in the area.

Shirley has also observed Valard workers following Indigenous protocols and instructions provided wherever they disturb the land; even when they are laying down mats.

Shirley enjoys the experience of working on the project and working outdoors, even when it means trudging through deep snow. She especially enjoys being able to get a sense of how the project is being built from start to finish.

Camp life is comfortable with good food and a good quality exercise room. One unexpected highlight of the job is she has been able to reconnect with old friends she has not seen in a while who are also working on the project.



Magnus Kitchemonia, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug



Magnus has really been enjoying his work with NorthWinds Environmental Services which began shortly after his graduation from the Ganawenjigewin Environmental Protection Training Program.

He has been working in the Sioux Lookout and Dryden areas while in the field and will be working from home upon returning to Thunder Bay where he will be doing data entry to create a live document of everything that was recorded in the field.

He has been conducting wildlife surveys by establishing permanent plots that will be checked periodically throughout the life of the project and beyond. The objective is to look for signs of caribou activity, but all wildlife is recorded. So far, they haven't seen any signs of caribou as their range is typically further to the north. Magnus is enjoying being out on the land and welcomes the challenge of walking through the deep snow.

He is learning to identify lots of animal tracks and so far has seen rabbit and marten tracks, a grouse bed and a moose bed. While conducting the survey plots, Magnus teamed up with Valard environmental monitors who also happened to be graduates of the Ganawenjigewin Environmental Protection Training Program! It was great to see Lloyd and Shirley again and work together in the field.

Magnus's work with NorthWinds expands beyond working on the Wataynikaneyap project. He is also doing aerial moose surveys for other projects NorthWinds is involved with. He is excited about his first time in a helicopter and the experience of looking for moose from the sky.



Meet Your Community Liaisons

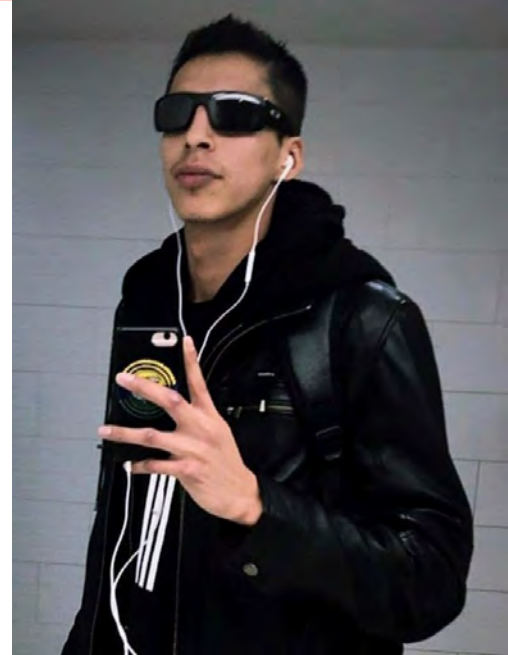


Blake Hudson

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug

Email: Blakehudson1@hotmail.com

Phone: (807) 537-2017 | (807) 212-5698



Blake Hudson enjoys the helping position he was given when hired on as Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug's Community Liaison. Not knowing what to expect in this role, Blake has learned a lot about the job, the Wataynikaneyap Project, and the many training & employment opportunities his fellow community members can access.

All the information provided to him in meetings, conversations and documents, Blake shares with his community leadership and members to ensure they are informed and ready for the Project to arrive in their territory.

Even though the role was a little intimidating for a usually shy, quiet guy, Blake was happy to join the team and gain the experience. Blake has even stepped up to help with the Energizing Youth program this year. Blake enjoys being out on the land, hunting and fishing on his down time. Blake hopes the Covid restrictions will let up soon so group activities can begin again. For more information on the Wataynikaneyap Project reach out to your Community Liaison, Blake Hudson.

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.

Early Construction Engagement

Ask your Community Liaison about the **Transmission Line Four-Part Mini-Series**. Community Liaisons can share presentations and videos with you about: Right of Way and Access; Substations; Tower Assembly; and Tower Erection and Stringing.



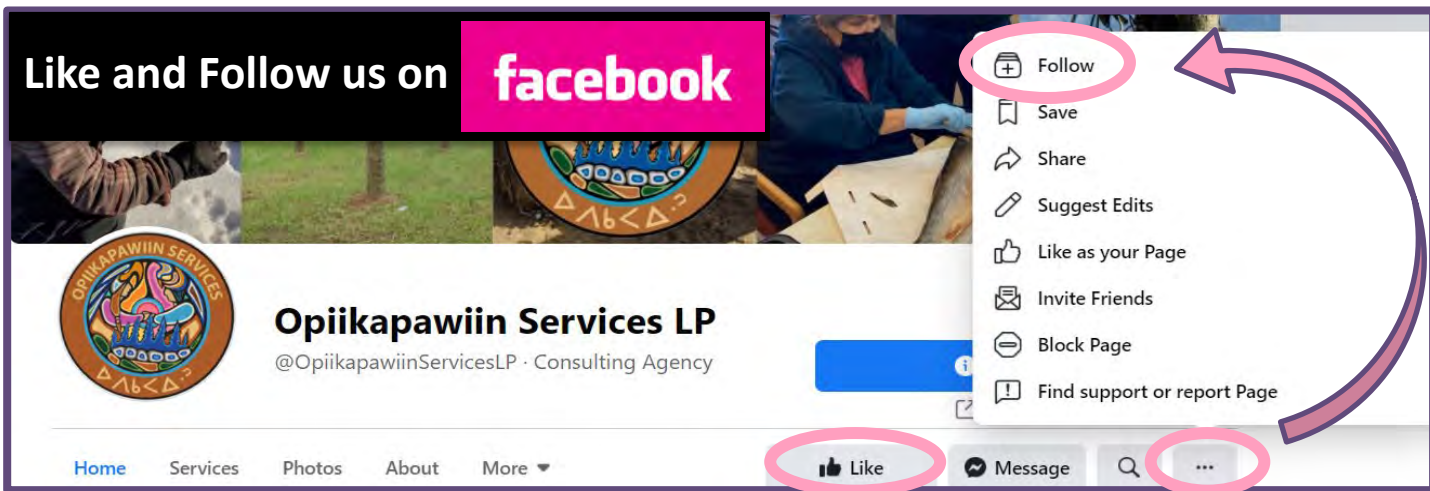
Stay tuned for upcoming Community Radio Shows featuring Wataynikaneyap Power updates and opportunities to phone in with questions.

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

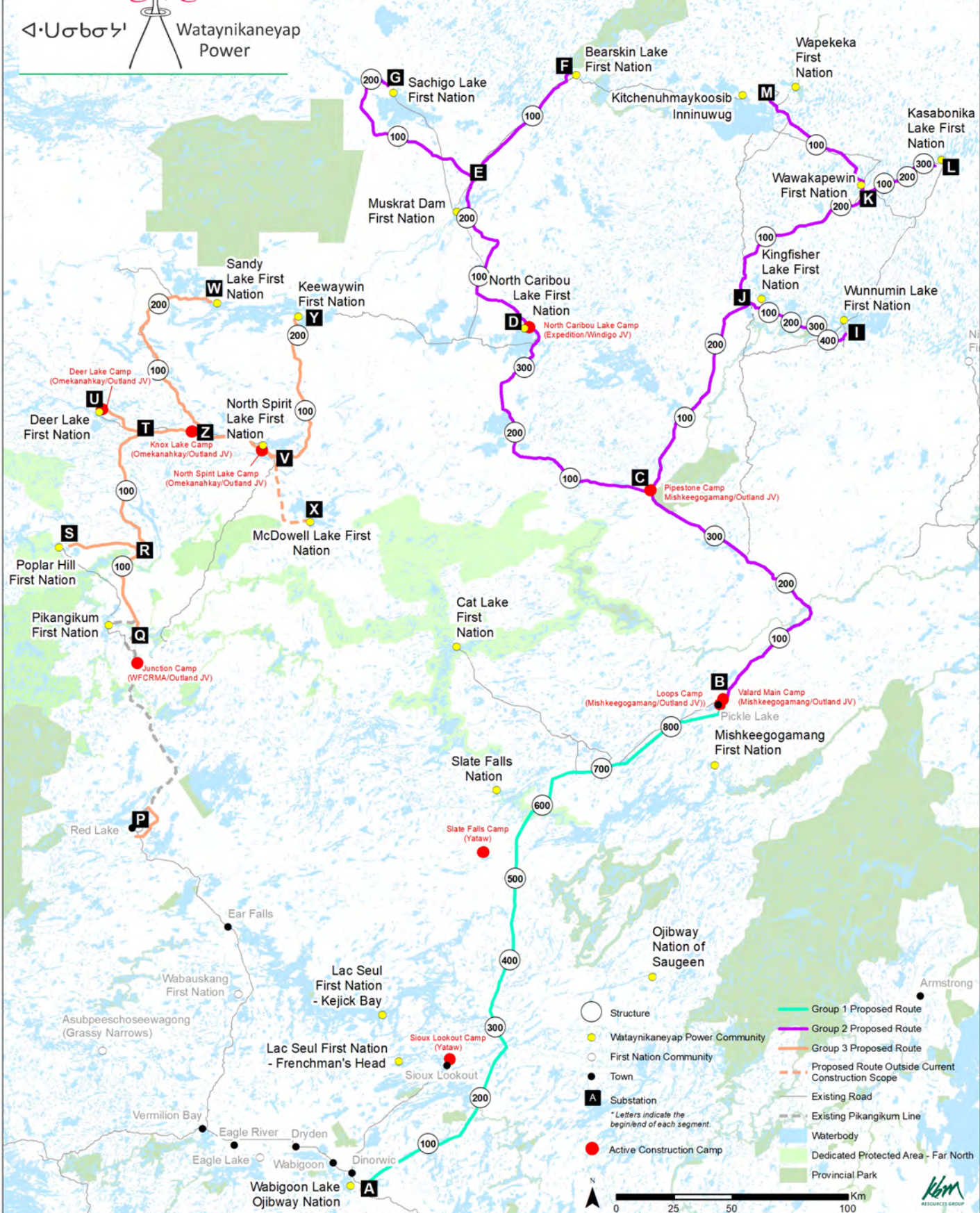
e-mail: WatayInquiries@wataypower.ca



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 

WATAYNIKANEYAP POWER



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