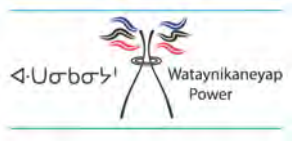




An aerial view of various tower structures between Muskrat Dam and Bearskin Lake First Nations.

Photo Credit: Valard

# Wataynikaneyap Transmission Line Project & Opiikapawiin Services



Wataynikaneyap Power is majority owned at 51% by 24 First Nations in partnership with Fortis and other investors at 49%. Wataynikaneyap, Opiikapawiin, and Valard (the Project’s Engineering, Procurement and Construction contractor) are working together to maximize Indigenous Participation on the Wataynikaneyap Transmission Line Project.

Opiikapawiin Services LP is 100% owned by 24 First Nations and provides the following services to Wataynikaneyap Power:

- Employment and training
- Community readiness
- Business readiness
- Community engagement
- Communication

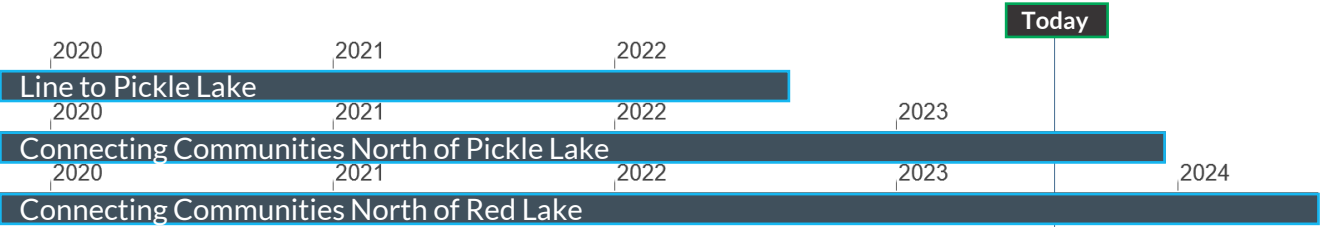


Table of Contents	Page
Construction Update	2-4
Employment Update	5-6
Training	7
Wataynikaneyap Employee Spotlight	8
Project Employee Spotlight	9
Engagement Update	10
Business & Communications	11
Wataynikaneyap Power Project Map	12

## Do you have a question or concern about the Wataynikaneyap Transmission Line Project?

**Phone: 807-577-5955 ext. 117**  
(don't forget to leave your contact information!)  
**Email: [watayinquiries@wataypower.ca](mailto:watayinquiries@wataypower.ca)**

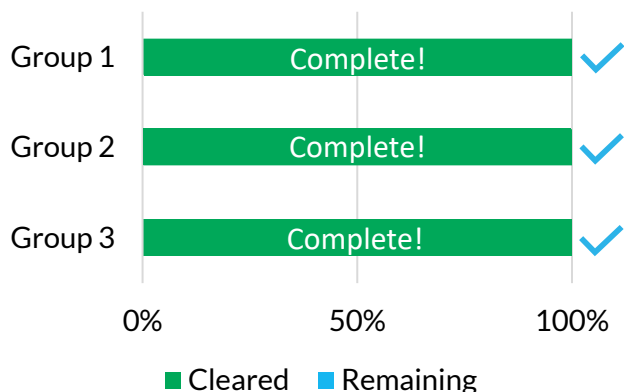
Your question or concern will be sent to the appropriate person or department. We will follow up with an answer or more information as quickly as we can!

A photograph of a person wearing a red shirt and safety harness, climbing a tall metal transmission tower. The tower is made of a lattice of steel beams. The background is a clear sky.The logo for Wataynikaneyap Power, featuring a stylized graphic of two hands holding a flame or a torch, with the text "Wataynikaneyap Power" and a line of text in a non-Latin script below it.

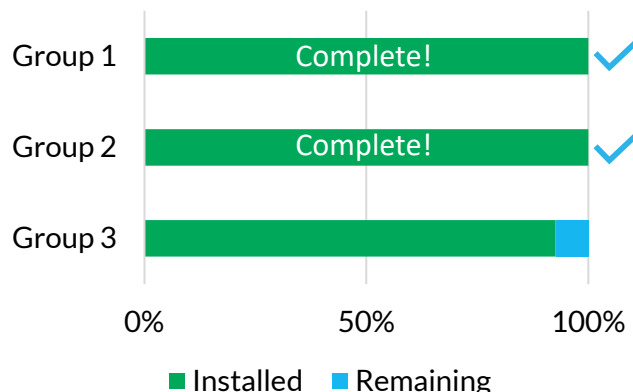
% complete up to July 1, 2023

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

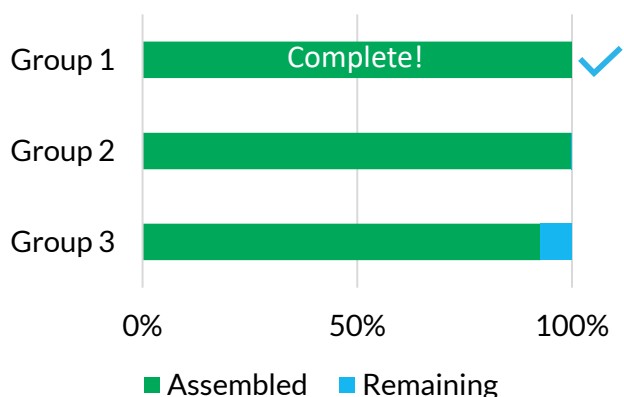
## Right of Way Clearing



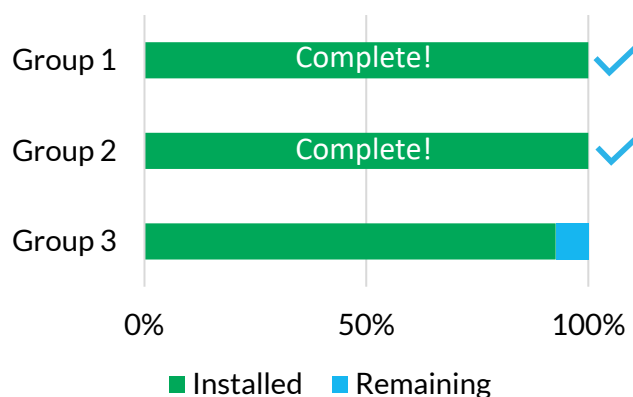
## Foundation Installation



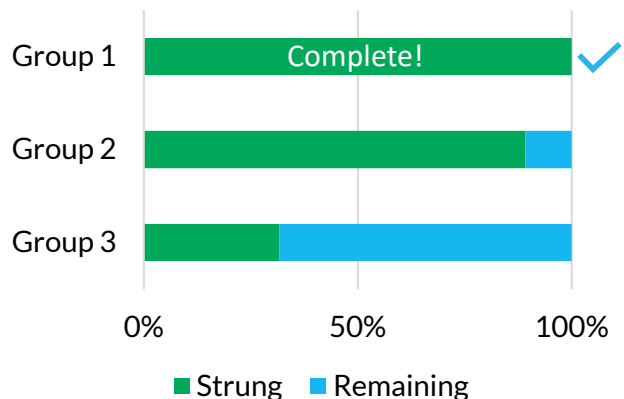
## Tower Assembly



## Tower Installation



## Line Stringing (# of Structures)



Valard began work on the Project in October of 2019 and has been making progress in the following areas:

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



## Construction Photos – Featuring some Project Machinery!



*Heavy equipment parked at the Keewaywin yard in April 2023.*



*In March 2023, a helicopter longlines gear between Knox camp and Sandy Lake First Nation. "Longlining" is transporting material or equipment via helicopter using a long cable.*



*This is an ice road-worthy truck carrying water at the Pipestone yard in March 2023.*



*A tractor is dragging tires along an access trail to drive frost deeper into the ground in March 2023. Increasing traffic along relatively bare ground increases the rate of frost penetrating the subsoil. A deep layer of frozen soil improves the access along the ROW and access trails.*



% complete as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

■ Civil  
■ Foundations  
■ Structural Steel  
■ Electrical



These substations are 100% complete!

A (Dinorwic)

B (Pickle Lake)

C (Pipestone)

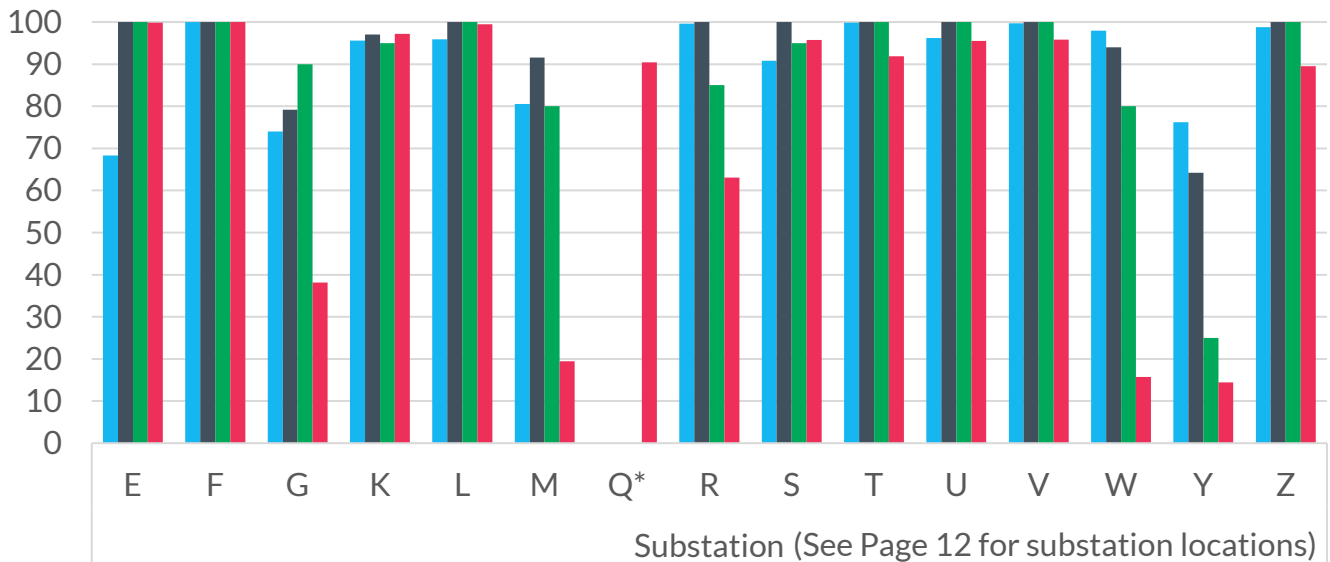
D (North Caribou)

I (Wunnumin)

J (Kingfisher)

P (Red Lake)

Q (Pikangikum)



## Substation Photos



Battery testing at Wawakapewin Substation (K) in April.

Batteries are used to power the control buildings at substations in case of a power outage. They provide approximately eight hours of power. Batteries are inspected and tested four times per year.

**Interested in working on the Project?**

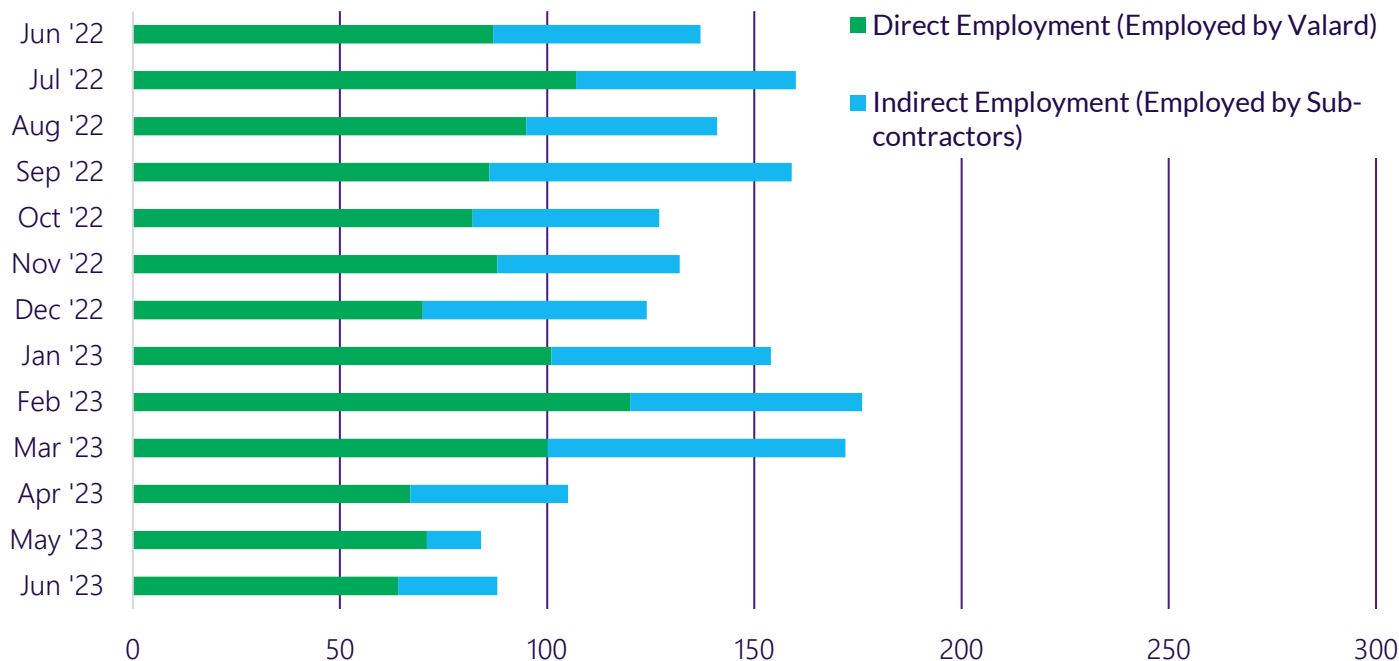
Stay up-to-date on available employment opportunities by visiting:

[www.oslp.ca/careers](http://www.oslp.ca/careers).

Send your resumé to:

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

## Participating First Nation Employee Information (Up to June 31, 2023)



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

## Active/Recent Job Postings

Interested in any of the below job postings? Visit [www.oslp.ca/careers](http://www.oslp.ca/careers)  
OR email [projectjobs@oslp.ca](mailto:projectjobs@oslp.ca) OR ask your Community Liaison for information!

Company	Positions
OUTLAND CAMPS AND CATERING (JV Partner to 7 communities)	Camp Manager, Camp Administrator, Head Chef, Cooks, Bakers, Kitchen Support, Housekeeper, Janitor, Driver



As part of Cormorant's commitment to Reconciliation, general employment opportunities within Cormorant are regularly communicated to several Indigenous organizations, including Opiikapawin Services and Wataynikaneyap Power. These positions are generally based in either Cambridge, ON or Whitefish, ON, with various travel requirements depending on the position. Members of the 24 Partner First Nations are encouraged to apply for the following positions:

Company	Positions
CORMORANT UTILITY SERVICES	Track Assembler, Electrical Assembler, Heavy Duty Equipment Technician, Project Administration Coordinator

## OSLP Recruitment & Retention Team Update

Elaine Keesick (OSLP Indigenous Recruitment and Retention Advisor) and Mann Koner (OSLP Employment Supports Coordinator) will be travelling to each of the Participating First Nation communities to get an employment update from all PFN members who have received training by Opiikapawin Services. Stay tuned for information on when they will be coming to your community!

For any questions on this initiative,  
or for assistance with any employment related matters (including resumé building), please contact:  
Elaine Keesick at [e.keesick@oslp.ca](mailto:e.keesick@oslp.ca) / (807) 633-7446; or Mann Koner at [m.koner@oslp.ca](mailto:m.koner@oslp.ca) / (807) 620-5219.

# CONGRATULATIONS & BEST OF LUCK IN YOUR APPRENTICESHIPS!



Katelyn Campbell  
Poplar Hill First Nation

Darren Henry  
Lac Seul First Nation



Shirley King  
Pikangikum First Nation

Jonathan Mamakeesick  
Keewaywin First Nation



Congratulations to the four apprentices employed by PowerTel, a subsidiary of Cormorant Utility Services, in 2023! They will be working on many of PowerTel's and its affiliated companies' projects across Ontario – gaining the skills and knowledge to become powerline technicians and substation technicians. We hope to see them on the Wataynikaneyap Power transmission system soon! As members of the Project's 24 First Nation owners, they will have the unique experience of maintaining and operating infrastructure that they majority own.

Wataynikaneyap Power's inspection, maintenance, and emergency response services are provided by PowerTel - with a commitment for First Nation participation, employment, and capacity-building. As such, PowerTel is supporting Participating First Nation members in substation electrician apprenticeships and powerline technician apprenticeships.





***Congratulations to these former Opiikapawiin Services' Trainees on their recent success in being hired by PowerTel, a subsidiary of Cormorant Utility Services, as Powerline Technician and Substation Apprentices (Level 1)!***



**Kaitlyn Campbell**  
Poplar Hill  
First Nation



**Darren Henry**  
Lac Seul  
First Nation



**Shirley King**  
Pikangikum  
First Nation



**Jonathan Mamakeesic**  
Keewaywin  
First Nation

**2021 Pre-Employment  
Training (2) Graduate**

**2022 Licensed Security  
Guard and Heavy  
Equipment Operator  
Certificate Graduate**

Hired by Valard as Utility  
Person on Wataynikaneyap  
Project

**2023 Pre-Employment  
Training (9) graduate -  
earned new certificates  
and refreshed existing  
certificates**

**2019 Line Crew  
Support Graduate**

Worked with Valard  
as Camp Set Up  
Electrician and  
Substation  
Electrician

**2023 Pre-  
Employment  
Training (9)  
graduate- earned  
new certificates and  
refreshed existing  
certificates**

**2020 Environmental  
Monitor Training  
Graduate**

Hired by Valard as  
Environmental Monitor

**2021 All Women Line  
Crew Ground Support  
Graduate**

Hired by Valard as  
assembler

**2019 OSLP Line Crew  
Ground Support  
Program Graduate**

Employed as a  
Powerline Technician  
Apprentice with Valard

**2022 AZ License  
Graduate**

**Hired by PowerTel, a subsidiary of Cormorant Utility Services, as Powerline Technician and Substation Apprentices (Level 1)!**

***Have you previously taken training with Opiikapawiin Services?  
We would love to hear an update from you!***

**CALLING ALL OSLP TRAINEES!**

Do you want the chance to win a prize, including  
one of two tablets (Lenovo Tab M10)?

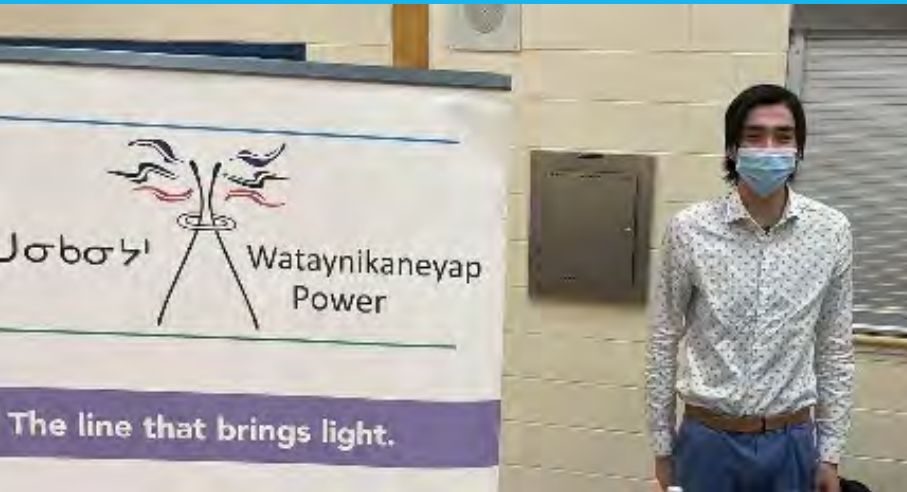
Please fill out the Employment Status  
Questionnaire (ESQ) at this link to enter the draw:

**<https://www.oslp.ca/training-participants>**



**For any questions, contact:** Laura Calmwind, Training Program Manager  
[l.calmwind@oslp.ca](mailto:l.calmwind@oslp.ca) / (807) 630 - 2196

## Wataynikaneyap Employee Spotlight



# Trey Duncan

*Bearskin Lake First Nation/  
Muskrat Dam First Nation  
Office Assistant,  
Wataynikaneyap Power PM*

My name is Trey Duncan, currently I work with Wataynikaneyap Power PM as a full-time Office Assistant in the Project Controls Department. I have been working on the Project for a total of 10 months, with a prior role as an HR summer student working in the Human Resources department. I was also a Bursary and Mentorship program recipient in 2022, and recently graduated from the 3-year Human Resources / Business Administration program at Confederation College this past April.

For the most part my day-to-day tasks are administrative related. To sum up my role: it is to help gather, collect, and distribute crucial information regarding the project. A lot must deal with what is going on from a Construction, Electrical, Engineering, and Substation perspective. Scheduling, Agenda, Attendance, and Minutes are all part of the meeting process. To name a few others: working on Visa statements, spending reports, filing away reports and other documents, and other small scale administrative tasks.

My favourite moments working on the project so far have been travelling to the communities to participate in career fairs. It's always great to engage with the youth in the communities, as well as getting to know the workers, Elders, and other companies that are involved! Another memorable moment was the career fair turnout at Dennis Franklin Cromarty high school in Thunder Bay back in March. The more students there are, the more it allows for the opportunity to provide a valuable experience.

I believe that my interest in helping others and learning more about the northern communities helps me in my role, however one of the main challenges I've had while working on the Project has been trying to make an impact on the younger ones when it comes to visiting the communities and partaking in career fairs. Especially grades 1-6, it can be hard to get their thoughts orientated in a manner that allows them to think about their future.

Another challenge I have faced is when I am in meetings, keeping up with all the engineering, powerline, substation, construction work is quite complex! However I'd like to share a quote with you by Carl Jung:

*"Knowledge rests not upon truth alone, but upon error also" – Carl G. Jung.*

This quote is from Carl Jung and is a great reminder that learning and growth often come from making mistakes and encountering challenges, rather than simply being right all the time.

In my free time, I enjoy spending time with family and friends as well as my two dogs named Bailey and Charlie. I also enjoy working on animations, watching movies, playing video games, reading, and coding. A cool fact about me is that I was given the name “Pinechiich” which translates to “little bird” - my father is “Pineshii” which means “bird”!



## Wataynikaneyap Employee Spotlight



My name is Brennan Wassaykeesic, and I am from Mishkeegogamang First Nation. Currently I work with Hydro One as a Powerline Apprentice, however I started my career with Valard in November 2019 as an Assembler. Shortly after getting my apprenticeship from CUSW for Powerline in October 2020, I then moved onto Stringing on the Wataynikaneyap Project.

Being part of the Valard team, and the confidence and capability that they had to do the linework, rubbed off on me and is something I continue to carry with me as I move forward in my career. This mindset helped make the initial learning curve more manageable, and the accumulation of experience from working at Valard was very beneficial.

One of the things that inspired me the most about this Project is its scope of work - no two days were the same! I always wondered what my day would look like, as transmission line work involves such a wide variety of tasks. One of my most fond memories of working on the Project, however, was climbing a tower for the first time. A wide variety of people from all corners of Canada also come to work on the Project (something that has been both a positive and challenging aspect).



**Brennan Wassaykeesic**  
Mishkeegogamang First Nation  
Powerline Technician Apprentice Level 1  
Hydro One

While my current and former apprenticeships both offered a different learning experience for me, in the end this employment has helped me accomplish many things - most of all more knowledge and experience in this line of work, which was the biggest motivator for me on the ladder to success! I have found that if you are willing to put in the work, they will hire.

Along with this “can do” mindset, taking Opiikapawiin Services’ LP Line Crew Ground Support Training has also benefited me on my journey, especially in my current apprenticeship. The benefits that this career provides my family with has also been a motivator.

Things I like to do in my spare time include weightlifting, and bike riding. I’m also looking forward to hunting in my home community this fall, and fishing with my boat. Some advice I would like to share with readers - *move in silence, and don’t share your next move; show them when it’s done!*

## Youth Engagement – Plugged Into a Brighter Future



Opiikapawiin, in partnership with the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN), and Relay Education visited Kingfisher Lake First Nation on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 to provide a Plugged In to a Brighter Future workshop!



The aim of this workshop is to bring education about the energy sector and renewable energy to youth ages 9-14. Youth will be better prepared for careers in the energy sector as their communities connect to the provincial grid!

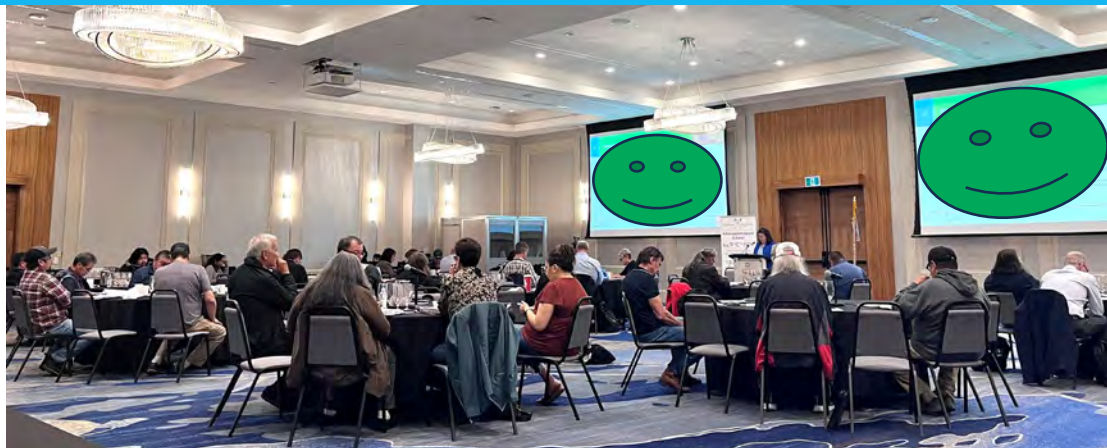
As part of the workshop, youth participated in a Solar Car Design Challenge! Topics also included Safety Spark and Plug in the Sun.

Pikangikum First Nation – June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The Wataynikaneyap and Opiikapawiin teams visited Pikangikum First Nation on June 26<sup>th</sup> to provide an update on the Construction Schedule, Operations and Maintenance, Health and Safety, Environment, and Indigenous Participation.

Chiefs Meeting – July 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>

Wataynikaneyap Power and Opiikapawiin Services provided Project Updates to Chief's and Board of the Participating First Nations, and other Community Members on July 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> in Thunder Bay.





## Business Readiness and Procurement of Goods and Services

If you have questions about business and economic development opportunities, please contact:

Marlon Gasparotto,  
Indigenous Business and Economic Development Advisor

E-mail: [m.gasparotto@oslp.ca](mailto:m.gasparotto@oslp.ca)

Office: (807) 474-3300 ext. 309

Cell: (807) 633-9373

## Business Directory

Opiikapawiin Services LP maintains a business registry that contains Participating First Nation Business Profiles and is referred to as the **Wataynikaneyap Business Directory**. This Directory can be shared with potential contractors and/or subcontractors to help facilitate First Nation business opportunities.

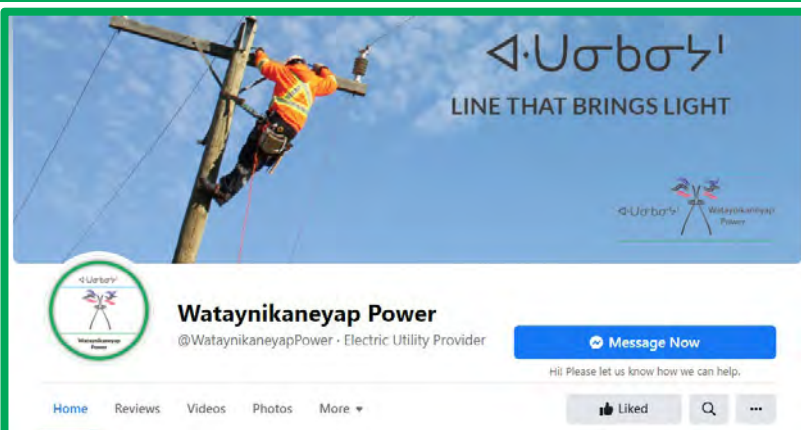
For information on how to register your Participating First Nation business or joint venture, please contact:

Ivan Donio,  
Indigenous Strategic Sourcing Advisor  
email [i.donio@oslp.ca](mailto:i.donio@oslp.ca)

Office: (807) 474-3300 ext. 308

Cell: (807) 633-4856

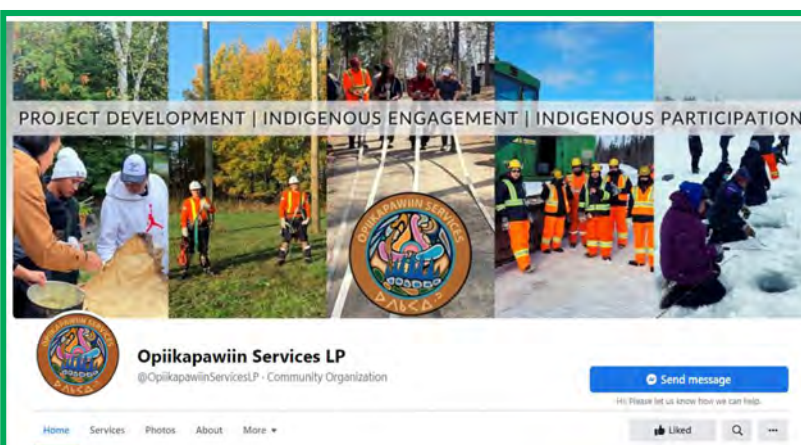
## Wataynikaneyap Transmission Line Communications



### Wataynikaneyap Power Facebook Page

[www.facebook.com/WataynikaneyapPower](http://www.facebook.com/WataynikaneyapPower)

- Photos of project construction
- Project announcements and company updates
- Employment opportunities with Wataynikaneyap
- Fact sheets
- Videos



### Opiikapawiin Services Facebook Page

[www.facebook.com/OpiikapawinServicesLP](http://www.facebook.com/OpiikapawinServicesLP)

- Training opportunities with Opiikapawiin and Valard
- Job opportunities with Opiikapawiin, Valard, Wataynikaneyap, and subcontractors (when provided)
- Project announcements and company updates
- Information Flyers



# WATAYNIKANEYAP POWER

