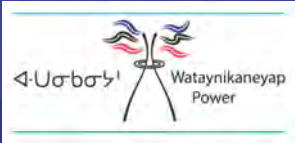


A beautiful
nighttime view of
the Northern
Lights by the
Poplar Hill Camp.

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, Valard (the Project’s Engineering, Procurement and Construction contractor), and Powertel, a subsidiary of Cormorant Services (the Project Inspection, Maintenance, and Emergency Response 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

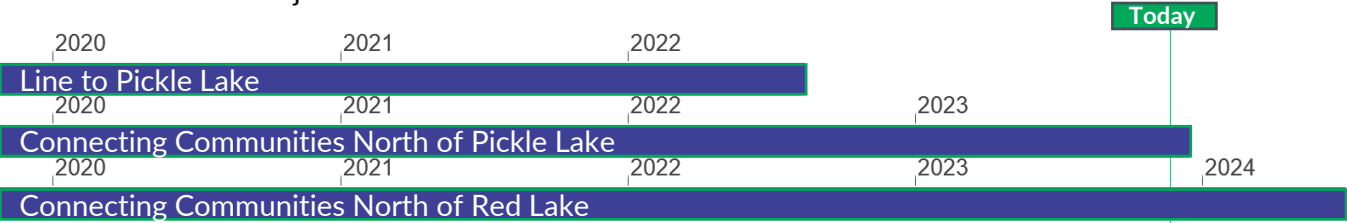


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Do you have a question or concern about the Wataynikaneyap Transmission Line Project?



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

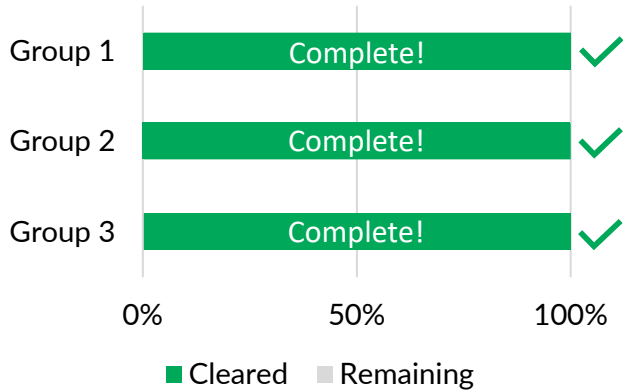
Your question or concern will be sent to the appropriate person or department. We will follow up with an answer or more information as quickly as we can!



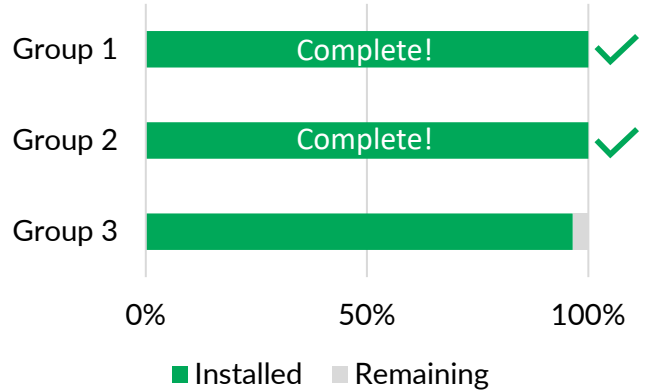
% complete up to October 28th, 2023

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

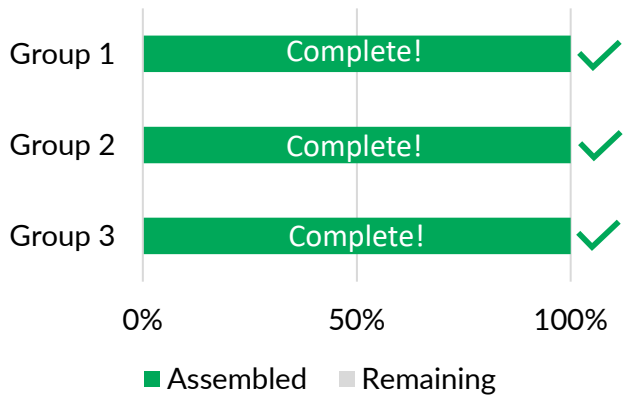
Right of Way Clearing



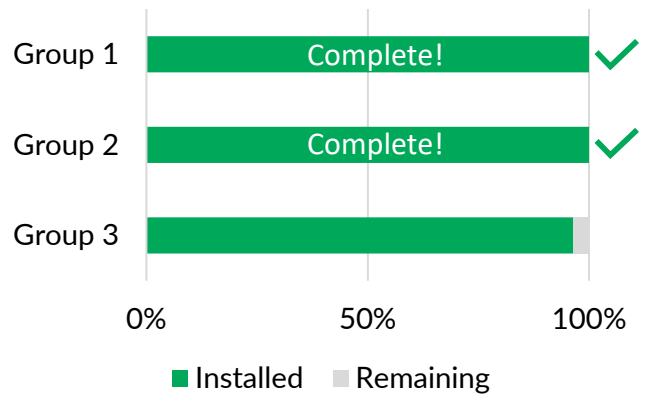
Foundation Installation



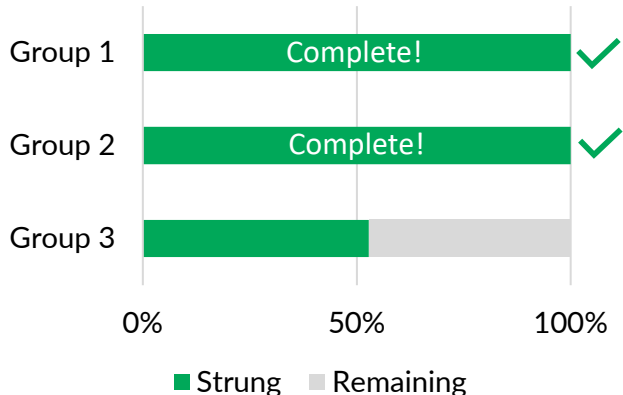
Tower Assembly



Tower Installation



Line Stringing (# of Structures)



Valard began work on the Project in October of 2019 and has been making progress in, or completed 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



A rock foundation being drilled in February 2023 on the line between Pikangikum and Poplar Hill First Nations. The drill crew prepares holes in the rock for grouted anchors, which form part of the foundation. A 4-inch diameter hole is drilled in the rock to install a grouted anchor. Then a special anchor rod is inserted into the hole. Grout (cement) is pumped into the space between the anchor rod and the surrounding rock. After the grout sets, the anchor rod will be structurally bonded to the rock and will be able to resist the forces imposed by the structure.



Tower assembled on Poplar Hill laydown yard in June. Tower assembly is now 100% complete on the Project!



A Puma helicopter longlines water to a crew in June. "Longlining" is transporting material or equipment via helicopter using a long cable.

For opportunities to work on the project, have a look at available job postings at:

www.oslp.ca/careers

www.valard-watay.com

www.wataypower.ca

Send your resume to:

watay-resumes@valard.com and

projectjobs@oslp.ca

Wataynikaneyap Substation Construction Progress

% complete up to October 28th, 2023

■ Civil

■ Foundations

■ Structural Steel

■ Electrical

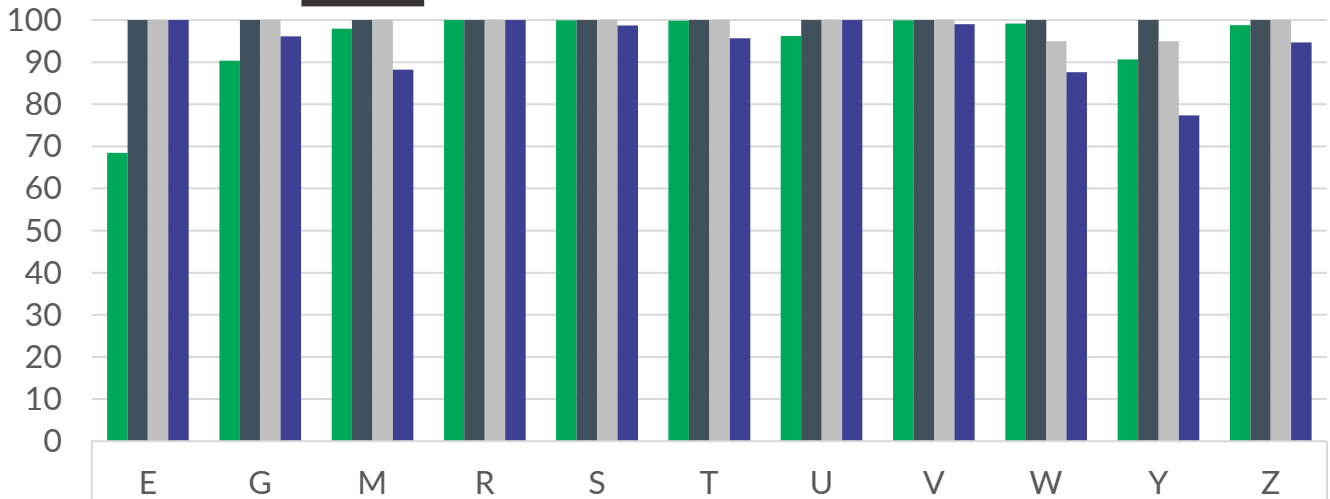


These substations are 100% complete!

A (Dinorwic)
B (Pickle Lake)
C (Pipestone)
D (North Caribou)

F (Bearskin Lake)
I (Wunnumin)
J (Kingfisher)
K (Wawakapewin)

L (Kasabonika Lake)
P (Red Lake)
Q (Pikangikum)



Substation (See Page 12 for substation locations)

* Substation Q required electrical work only.

Substation Photos

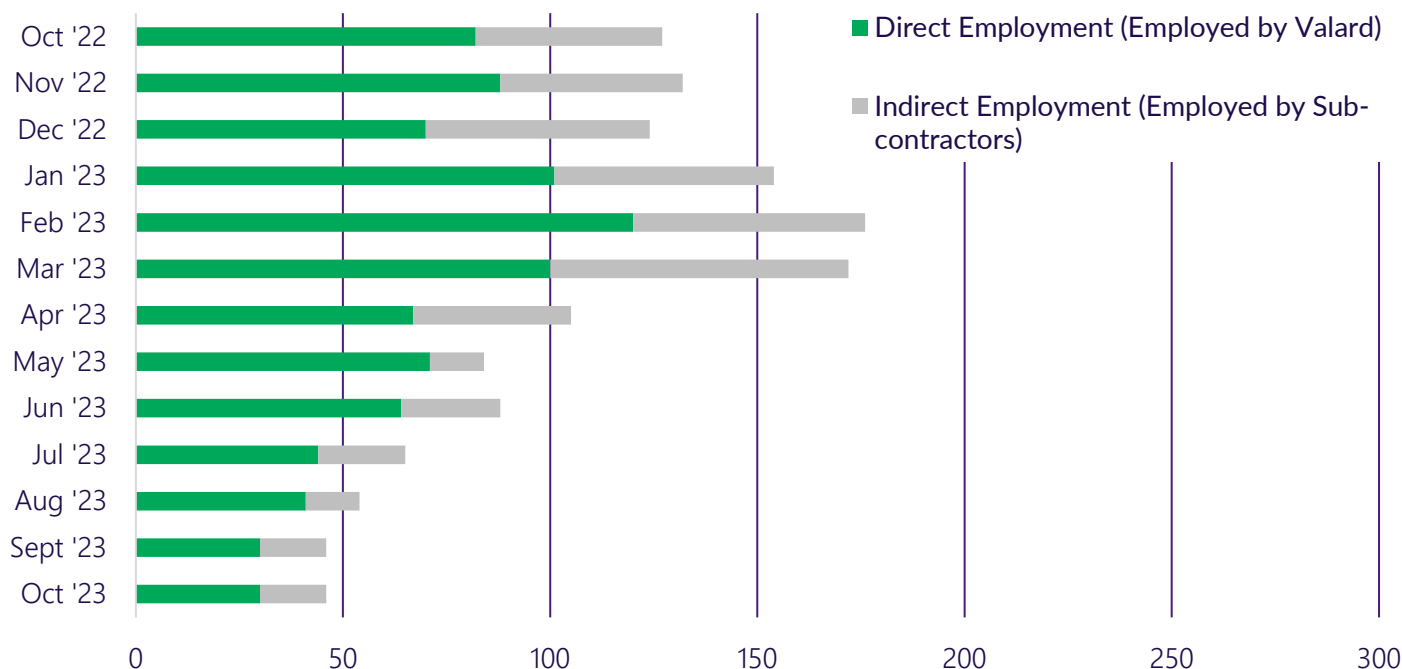


Opening the Wunnumin Lake Energization Community Gathering on October 30th, 2023 was a blessing for Substation I, which was done by Simon Winnepetonga.

See page 9 for more photos from the day's events!



Participating First Nation Employee Information (Up to October 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
 OR email projectjobs@oslp.ca OR ask your Community Liaison for information!

Company	Positions
OUTLAND CAMPS AND CATERING (Active JV Partner to 14 communities)	Camp Manager, Camp Administrator, Head Chef, Cooks, Bakers, Kitchen Support, Housekeeper, Janitor, Driver
WINDIGO CATERING LP	Currently accepting applications for open positions. Please send resumés to esitch@windigo.ca or projectjobs@oslp.ca



As part of Cormorant's commitment to Reconciliation, general employment opportunities within Cormorant are regularly communicated to several Indigenous organizations, including Opiikapawiin 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	Stay tuned for upcoming job opportunities!

Opiikapawiin Recruitment & Retention Team

**Merry Christmas from the
OSLP Recruitment & Retention
Team!**

If you need assistance with
creating or updating your
resume, navigating the
Wataynikaneyap Labour Pool
Database, applying for a job, or
if you have any questions
regarding employment or
apprenticeships, please contact:



Elaine Keesick
OSLP's Indigenous Recruitment and
Retention Advisor
Email: e.keesick@oslp.ca
Office: (807) 474-3300 ext. 210
Cell: (807) 633-7446



Mann Koner
OSLP's Employment Supports
Coordinator
Email: m.koner@oslp.ca
Office: (807) 474-3300 ext. 222
Cell: (807) 620-5219

Wataynikaneyap Transmission Line Bursary

**Wataynikaneyap Power is
offering a two-year
bursary and mentorship
program throughout 2024
to support grade 12 and
post- secondary students
from the Projects' owner
communities**



Made possible
with funding from:



Successful applicants will
receive:

- ✓ Mentorship from
industry professionals
- ✓ Opportunities for paid
work placements
- ✓ \$1,000 cash bursaries
- ✓ Industry connections
- ✓ Personalized career
support

**Contact HR@wataypower.ca
wataypower.ca/project/bursary-program**



**Apply
today!**

*Applications are being accepted from members of the following First Nations: Bearskin Lake, Cat Lake, Deer Lake, Kasabonika Lake, Keewaywin, Kingfisher Lake, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, Lac des Mille Lacs, Lac Seul, McDowell Lake, Mishkeegogamang, Muskrat Dam, North Caribou Lake, North Spirit Lake, Ojibway Nation of Saugeen, Pikangikum, Poplar Hill, Sachigo Lake, Sandy Lake, Slate Falls, Wabigoon Lake, Wapekeka, Wawakapewin, Wunnumin Lake

APPRENTICES WITH CORMORANT UPDATE



Katelyn Campbell
Poplar Hill First Nation

On Cormorant projects on Lakeshore near Windsor, working on live line work

"Kate is a hard worker, fast learner and has a positive attitude!"



Darren Henry
Lac Seul First Nation

Just finished working on a Cormorant project in Sault Saint Marie and is now on a project in Niagara Falls

"Darren was lauded by his supervisor and coworkers as a hardworking member of the team while in Sault Saint Marie."



Jonathan Mamakeesick
Keewaywin First Nation

Level 2 Powerline Apprentice, recently completed his first round of trade school

"While Jonathan's skills and efforts are a huge part of his success, the biggest contributions are undoubtedly his positive attitude and outstanding determination."

These apprentices are 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!



Project Employee Spotlight



Jordan Sturgeon
Bearskin Lake First Nation
OSLP *Manager of Projects*
and Information Technology

My name is Jordan Sturgeon, from Bearskin Lake. I have my own great family here in Thunder Bay, I am always happy to see them after working at Opiikapawiin Services. My wife and I have 2 children, we enjoy spending time out on the water and bush to fish and hunt, and together we travel as much as we can to help out at traditional ceremonies. I like spending time outdoors with my family, also spending time moose hunting with my dad. My wife is awesome at making crafts with moose hide, I have been trying to tan the moose hide we have in our backyard so she can make me good pair of mitts, 3 years and counting the tanned moose hide is still not ready.

I have been at Opiikapawiin Services for 6 years, taking part in variety of functions with Wataynikaneyap from my mamatawi biiwabik, pressing keys and making sure all other computers are working properly in our office. I took part in selecting the Wataynikaneyap Powers' Owners Engineer, EPC Contractor and assist Wataynikaneyap when our OSLP management team is required to advise on Indigenous engagement, participation, and communications. The Cross Cultural Training program that was required on the Project was one of my favourite tasks, I learned much from our Elders and Teachers that are part of the program. Another interesting part of my job is being on the team that ensures First Nations maintain Ownership of the Project, and seeing what it takes for 24 communities to own a massive infrastructure project. I have traveled to some of the communities over the years, enjoyed eating boiled Sturgeon, Duck and Fish eggs in Bearskin Lake last time we were there for Project updates.

Finishing my education was important in helping me get the kind of work I am doing now, also working very hard to provide good results whenever I get an important task. My grandfather taught me how to work hard when I was helping him build houses in my earlier years. However, I am too lazy to finish tanning my moose hide.

Advanced Vegetation Management Training

It is time to start training Wataynikaneyap Community Members to look at taking on Vegetation Management as the Project moves into Operations and Maintenance activities!

OSLP's 6-week Advanced Vegetation Management Training, which started on October 31st, will teach participants about safe work practices near electrical power lines, Wilderness First Aid techniques, Utility Tree Worker training for vegetation maintenance, and will also include a course in business management.

Training will be completed on December 8, 2023 – stay tuned for updates!



OSLP Advanced Vegetation Management Trainees completing Brush Saw training!

From Left to Right: Karey Kakepetum (Keewaywin), Antonio Suggashie (Poplar Hill), Pardamus Owen (Poplar Hill), Rene Mcdonald (Deer Lake), Barbara Gray (Lac Seul), Samantha Keesic (North Spirit), Kisha Kakegamic (Keewaywin), Kyle Kakepetum (Keewaywin)





Wataynikaneyap Power and Opiikapawin Services LP, held a three-day gathering on November 7, 8, 9, 2023 in Thunder Bay. It focused on moving towards ownership of major infrastructure in the homelands of the Participating First Nations, and delegates discussed what we need to do together to ensure the communities achieve the 25-year vision.



Elder's session to discuss the 25-year vision of Ownership



Playing bingo!



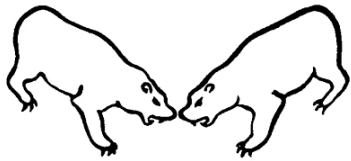
Community Liaisons Ellen Tait (Sachigo Lake) and Una Gott (Sandy Lake) helping to facilitate the conference



Wataynikaneyap CEO Margaret Kenequanash addressing the delegates.



Marlon and Elaine participating in some fun icebreaker activities!



Bearskin Lake Chief Lefty Kamenawatamin shares the community's experience being connected to the provincial power grid

Presentation to the "Moving Towards Ownership" conference in Thunder Bay, November 7, 2023

"We have about 500 people living in the community right now. There are four smaller communities that surround the small lake. Because we are spread out, we need lots of infrastructure to keep people connected, like roads and power lines.

Bearskin Lake First Nation was connected to the power grid on July 7, 2023. We didn't actually notice anything that day. There was no power outage when we switched it over. Many people probably didn't know it happened because it was a day like any other.

The biggest change will be that we will be able to connect our new houses and other buildings. I'm happy and glad to finally be grid connected, no more waiting because our power was maxed out. This will be a huge benefit, coming from being connected to the grid.

We did have a few outages in the weeks following the connection. Just a few hiccups, but the last power outage we had only lasted about an hour. At the same time, I noticed people in other communities posting that their power outages lasted about eight hours. The local HORCI worker told us that Bearskin's backup generators kicked in, so the power outage was not so long for us. That has been an immediate benefit – much shorter power outages.

When I was a child, the school was the only building that had power, which came from a diesel generator. It was only powered on during the school months, so when we had movie nights in the school in the summer, they needed to bring in portable generators to power the screen. Sometimes the generator wouldn't work, so we had nothing to do that evening. That sort of thing was our only entertainment back then. Movies and dances. When we had dances in the community hall, I remember it would be completely dark, with no lights. But still people came to dance in the dark.

Now that we are connected, the people are looking forward to the Christmas lights this year. There are no more restrictions. We are also excited to be able to plug in our trucks in the winter without worrying about maxing out our power.

Finally, I would like to caution the people to be smart on how they use their power. Safety should be your first priority."



Wataynikaneyap Transmission Line Energization

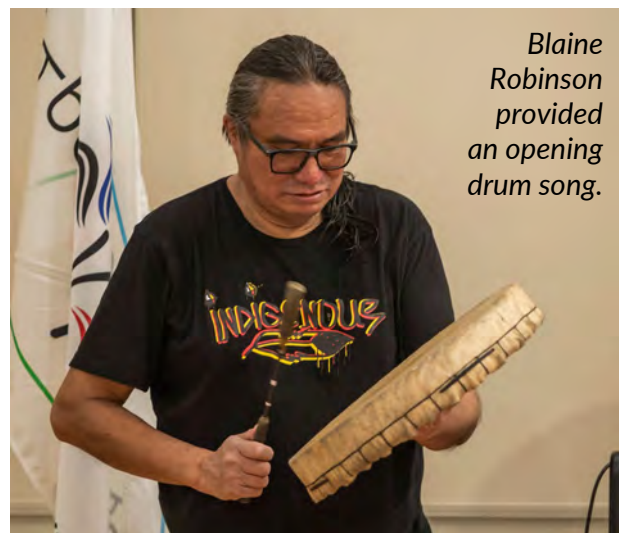
Wunnumin Lake Community Gathering – October 30, 2023



Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler addresses the crowd. Leigh Nunan from TBT News joined us to film the celebration.



A delicious feast!



Blaine Robinson provided an opening drum song.



Wunnumin Lake Community Gathering – October 30, 2023



Chief Sam Mamakwa



Rod Winnepetonga received special thanks from Margaret for his early (and ongoing) support and guidance to bring clean, reliable power to remote First Nations



Matthew Angees - Shibogama First Nations Council, Executive Director



Translator Bellamie Bighead



Since it was the day before Halloween, the NAN bear, helped us give out candy to the crowd!

Wataynikaneyap Power presents Chief Mamakwa and Wunnumin Lake Council members with a gift for the community



Chief Mamakwa and Margaret cut the cake!



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
Office: (807) 474-3300 ext. 309
Cell: (807) 633-9373

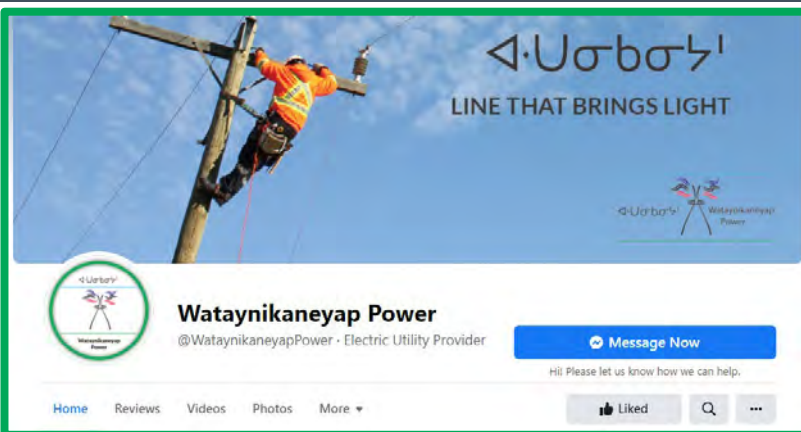
Business Directory

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:

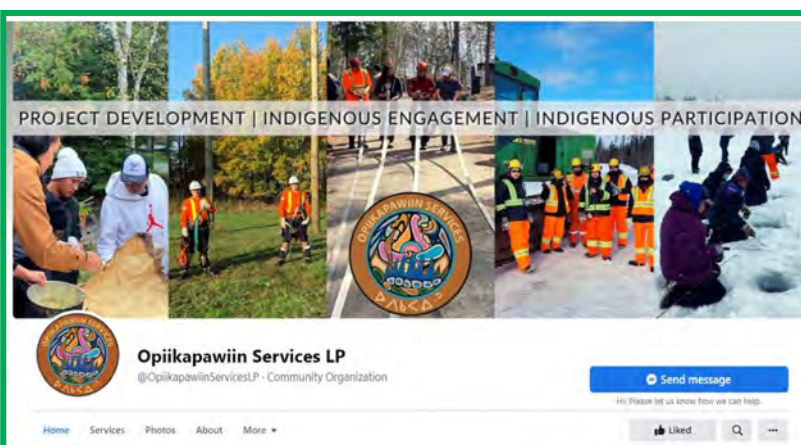
Ivan Donio,
Indigenous Strategic Sourcing Advisor
email i.donio@oslp.ca
Office: (807) 474-3300 ext. 308
Cell: (807) 633-4856

Wataynikaneyap Transmission Line Communications



Wataynikaneyap Power Facebook Page
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

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

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

