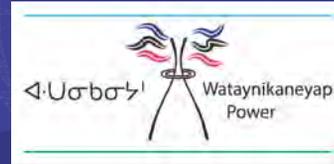


Photo Credit: Louis Simard



Wataynikaneyap Transmission Line Project & Opiikapawiin Services



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, Wataynikaneyap, and Valard are working together to maximize Indigenous Participation on the Wataynikaneyap Transmission Line Project.

- Opiikapawiin's services include:
- employment and training
 - community readiness
 - business readiness
 - community engagement
 - communication



* Schedule is subject to change

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COVID-19 and the Project

- Wataynikaneyap Power LP is in the construction phase of building critical infrastructure to connect remote First Nations to the electricity grid.
- 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 Nations, and the general public.
- Wataynikaneyap Power follows the most up-to-date medical advice provided by the federal and provincial government in its measures to help limit the spread of COVID-19.

Message from Wataynikaneyap CEO, Margaret Kenequanash

Happy New Year! I want to pause for a moment to reflect on the whirlwind that was 2021. It is hard to believe that the first tower on the Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission Line was installed on July 10, 2020, in the Lac Seul Homeland. I will always remember that day – as it happens to be a special day for me.

In a year and a half, we have made significant progress in constructing the transmission line, despite ongoing challenges that were never part of the plan, such as the pandemic and seasonal forest fires. As of early December, 68% of the right of way has been cleared, 1,548 towers have been installed (32% of the total 4,878) and work continues with line stringing. I never expected, when it finally came time to start constructing the line, that we would be doing the work mostly from our kitchen tables!

This progress is only possible because of the unwavering commitment by the 24 First Nations who share the vision of owning and building a transmission line to bring reliable power to the 17 First Nations communities. Miigwetch for your patience, your quick responses, and guidance in determining the path forward as we deal with these challenges. Miigwetch to the land stewards and First Nation communities for their continued support of the Wataynikaneyap Power Project.

Right of way clearing is a necessary and impactful first step in constructing a transmission line. While I am excited about our progress in implementing the Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission Line project as per the mandate, it is a shock to see the change it brings to the landscape. I hear the land users who express their sadness, as well their support and understanding of the need for this transmission line. Proper protocols and mitigations are followed with timber burning, construction noise, and helicopters (although they are temporary), but the overall benefit of a transmission line will be a multi-generational asset for our communities that will bring reliable, clean power.

Having an equity stake in ownership will enable our communities to change the landscape on how we do business with governments and industry. It will build a solid foundation for our future generations. Connection to the provincial power grid will not only bring reliable, clean power to our homeland– it will enable the communities to pursue new opportunities to create positive growth – always subject to our People's consent and approvals.

Our leaders established the Guiding Principles, endorsed by our partners, that set out expectations for the Wataynikaneyap Power Project's development. As such, the Project is undertaken in a manner that respects our lands, rights, and principles; our way of life on the land and as part of the land; and our land sharing protocols.

Our own recognition of and respect for our protocols and teachings will enable all of us to reconnect to our spiritual values, and strengthen our relationship to the land and to the Creator. Reconnecting our youth to the land and to the teachings will heal our Nation.



Margaret Kenequanash gives a thumbs-up next to a self-supporting structure located on the 230kV line between Pickle Lake to Mishkeegogamang!

Message from Wataynikaneyap CEO, Margaret Kenequanash cont'd.

It won't be long before all of the communities are connected. We plan to connect North Caribou Lake First Nation and Kingfisher Lake First Nation in the spring. I look forward to celebrating with you! 2022 is also the first year Wataynikaneyap Power will be an operator, as certain areas of the transmission line get hooked up to the provincial grid.

I am sure 2022 will be another busy year. Thank you to all the community members, our partners, external resource workers, and importantly, all the staff for your diligence, perseverance, and hard work in bringing the vision to fruition.

Best wishes for a safe and happy 2022! - Sincerely, Margaret Kenequanash

Message from Opiikapawiin Services LP CEO, Lucie Edwards



As the year draws to a close and a New Year approaches, I would like to reflect on some of the successes and milestones we have achieved here at Opiikapawiin Services over the past year. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we have had a very busy year, and Opiikapawiin Services continues to assist our First Nations to capture the benefits and the opportunities in the areas of training, business, and employment emerging from the Wataynikaneyap transmission line project.

We have delivered some very successful training programs; including the second session of our four-week Ganawenjigewin Environmental Monitoring program in November, where 21 participants received their certification. We also delivered two (2) of ten (10) pre-employment training programs to support First Nation members to build local community capacity, and to remove employment barriers of their membership. We were also very excited to see the cohort graduate from our first All-Women Line Crew training program, and will continue to look for ways to increase the participation of women in the transmission line project.

Opiikapawiin recognizes the importance of culture and traditional knowledge, and incorporates an Indigenous perspective into all training. As of the end of November, training has been delivered to 311 participating community members, and we look forward to training even more in 2022!

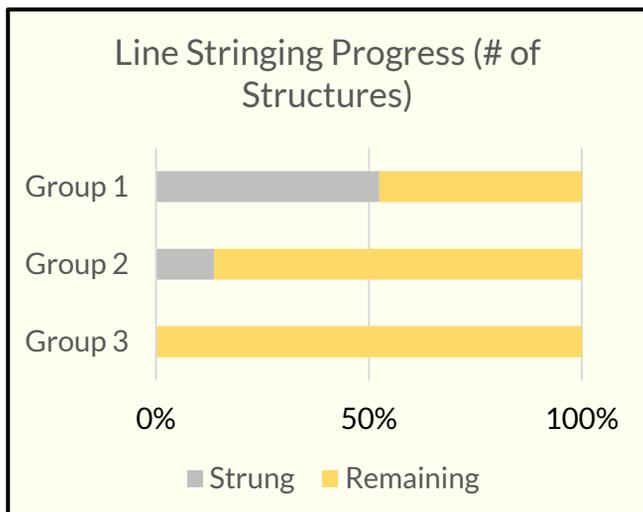
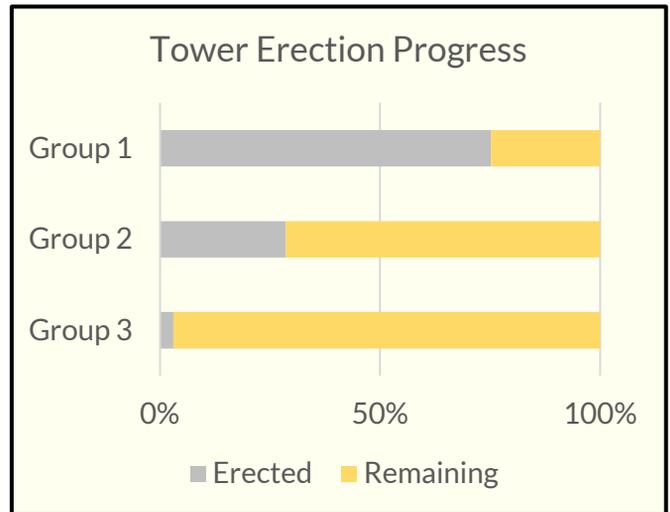
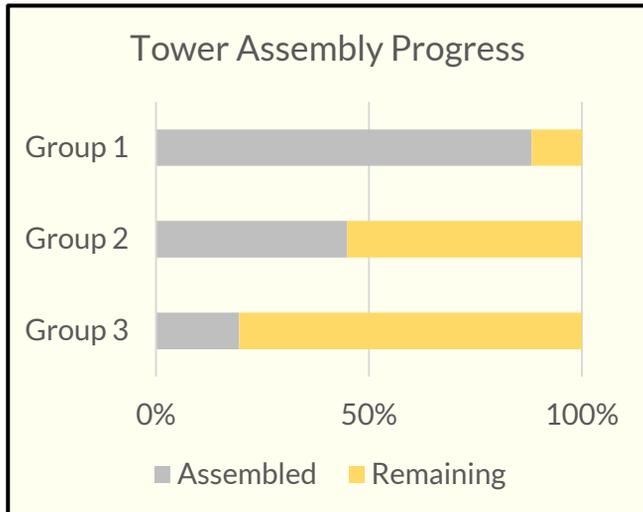
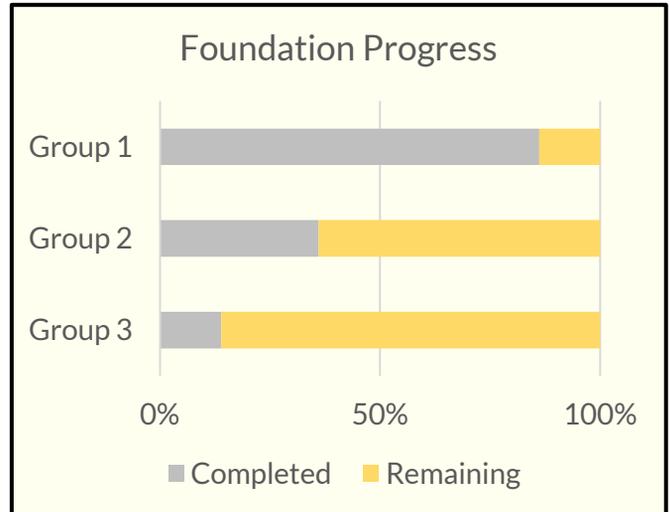
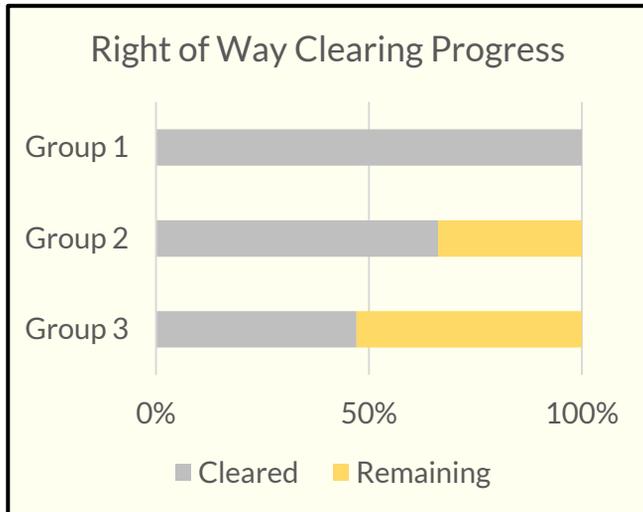
In business, we had 31 Participating First Nation community joint ventures and member businesses working on the Project in 2021 (up from 17 in 2020!). We have also seen employment on the Project from 23 out of 24 participating First Nations. Overall, the Indigenous Participation Team has been working hard, and we look forward to the new year and all the successes and challenges it is sure to bring.

Opiikapawiin also delivers local community capacity projects, including the Community Liaison Program. Your community liaisons have been working very hard over the last year and we would like to take a moment to acknowledge them for all the work they do. In just one example demonstrating their hard work, initiative, and commitment to the project, one liaison was able to bring a DriveTest initiative to their community where 57 people completed their G1 license!

I want to thank all of the First Nations communities, Community Leaders, Board Members, Tribal Councils, Elders and Community Liaisons who have worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the Wataynikaneyap Project, which would not be possible without your support. Wishing you and your family a safe and enjoyable holiday season !

Miigwetch! - Sincerely, Lucie Edwards

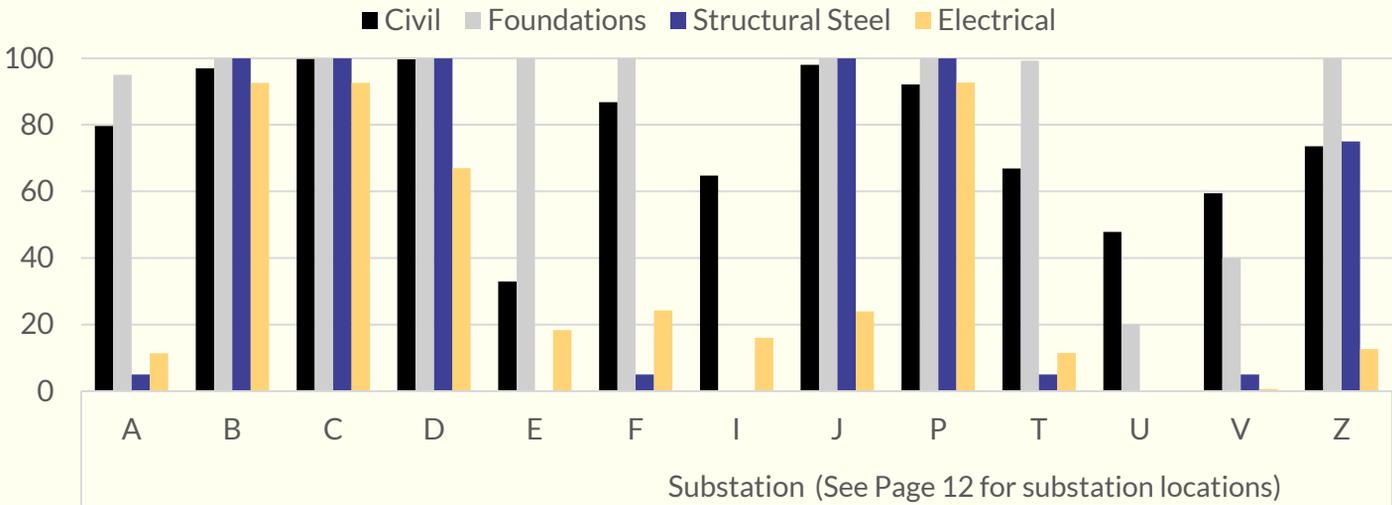
Construction Update – up to November 27th, 2021



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

Substation Construction Progress (% complete as of November 27th, 2021)



Substation Photos!



This is the 115kV **Substation P** near **Red Lake**. When Wataynikaneyap Power connected Pikangikum First Nation in December 2018, the line was connected to the existing Hydro One 44 kV system (which was the closest and most suitable power line system in the area) but was built to the standard for 115 kV so that it can be connected to the 115 kV transmission line system that will serve the communities of Poplar Hill, Deer Lake, North Spirit Lake, Keewaywin, Sandy Lake, and eventually McDowell Lake which will extend north from the existing substation.



Crews use a concrete pumper truck to fill tubes that will be equipment foundations at **Substation A** near **Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation**. Inspectors are on site to measure concrete quality and temperature to make sure the finished product meets specifications. After the concrete reaches an appropriate compressive strength, the area will be backfilled and compacted to a level working area.



Health and Safety Tip

Substations are extremely dangerous;
Never climb the fence or try to enter the area!



Some Project Photos!



A 115 kV circuit breaker is being filled with an inorganic, colourless, odorless, non-flammable, and non-toxic gas called Sulphur Hexafluoride. This gas is an electrical insulator and is in common use in high voltage circuit breakers across North America. When the internal contacts inside the circuit breaker housing open (during fault conditions or when isolating a transmission line for maintenance), the electrical current will try to arc across the opening in the contacts. The gas acts to suppress or "snuff out" the arc.



A bulldozer, equipped with a special plow tooth, digs a trench so counterpoise grounding wire can be installed. Counterpoise grounding wires are conductors buried slightly below the surface of the earth between each transmission line tower. The plow tooth is hollow in the middle, which allows for the installation of the wire as the bulldozer moves forward.

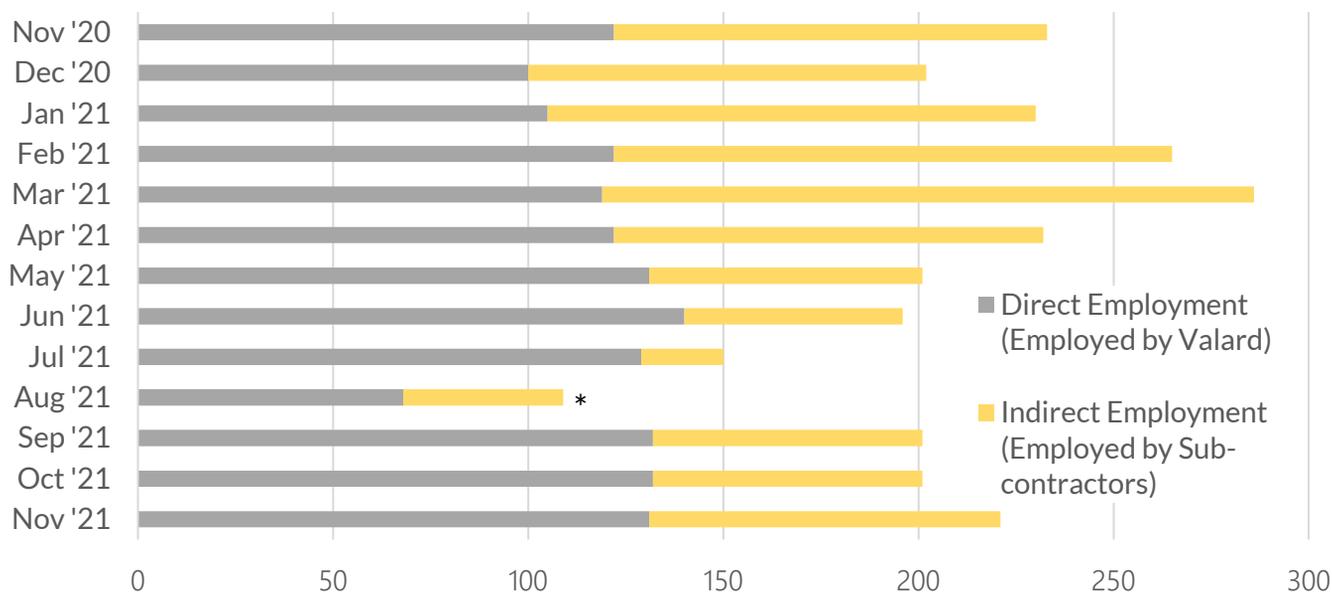


Most towers on the Wataynikaneyap transmission line are lattice steel guyed structures, with four high strength guy wires supporting each tower. Here, the diameter of a guy wire is being checked for quality control near Pickle Lake.



A worker uses a magnetic drill on a stub leg to drill out the bolt holes used to fasten the tower and leg together. The magnetic drill ensures the drill bit stays at the right location and angle during the drill operation.

Participating First Nation Employee Information



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

* Operations suspended for much of August due to fires

Indigenous Participation by Activity	% of Total Project hours worked by Valard Participating First Nation Employees									
	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Assembly	35	41	42	53	55	52	47	48	52	48
Environment	31	25	26	25	27	30	**	**	**	12.5
Foundations and Anchors (Valard Crews only)	15	16	17	24	22	18	18	33	29	31
Survey (Geomatics)	15	12	11	12	11	10	**	10	12	18
Guy Wire	27	34	22	17	13	11	**	23	32	30
Material Handling	23	24	21	22	20	20	**	14	27	24
Grounding	12	21	21	19	12	8	**	29	28	27
	* Not Reported									
	** Operations suspended in August due to fires and MNRF Orders.									

INTERESTED IN WORKING ON THE PROJECT?

Please forward resumes to:

watay-resumes@valard.com and projectjobs@oslp.ca

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 more information!

Company	Positions
VALARD	Tower Assemblers, Project Field Quality Control Lattice Steel Assembly/Erection, Emergency Medical Responder, Primary Care Paramedic Level 1-2, Environmental Monitor, Assemblers, Indigenous Construction Liaison/Knowledge Holder, Community Support Partner, Community Indigenous Relations Advisor
YATAW/OUTLAND CAMPS AND CATERING (JV Partner to 6 communities)	Camp Manager, Camp Administrator, Head Chef, Cooks, Bakers, Kitchen Support, Housekeeper, Maintenance, Janitorial, Housekeeping
SYNTERRA SECURITY SOLUTIONS (JV Partner to 6 communities)	Licensed Security Guard, Yard Attendant
SIGFUSSON GROUP LP (JV Partner to 8 communities)	Skilled Labourer, Dozer and Excavator Operators
NORTHERN MAT & BRIDGE (JV Partner to 5 communities)	Shuttle Operator

Wataynikaneyap Labour Pool Database

Add yourself to the Labour Pool Database!

- Head to the labour pool site at: www.oslp.ca/labour-pool
- Click the "Sign Up" button
- Once your profile has been approved, you will receive an email to reset your password (check your spam or junk folder)
- If your profile on the Wataynikaneyap Labour Pool Database is not approved in a couple of days, please contact Elaine Keesick or Geoffrey Otto.

Already in the Labour Pool Database?

Don't forget to update your profile if your information changes, including your address, email, phone, and resumé. It is important that all members in this Database have an updated resumé uploaded to their profile.

Forgot your Password?

If you forget or lose your password, you can set or change your password any time at www.oslp.ca/labour-pool. Click the "forgot password" link, and the system will send you an email with a new link to change your password.

Don't Have a Resumé? Try the Resumé Builder!

- Please see your local Community Liaison, or contact Elaine Keesick, Indigenous Recruitment and Retention Advisor, at e.keesick@oslp.ca or (807) 633-7446.

All Women Line Crew Ground Support

Congratulations to the graduates who completed the All Women Line Crew Ground Support course! We celebrate these strong women with their families, friends and community leadership. This is the only course of its kind in Canada, specifically organized for First Nation women from Wataynikaneyap Power's owner communities. Course structure from Canada's Infrastructure Health and Safety Association provided graduates with 25 transferable certificates. Thank you to the training team and all the trainees who earned certificates over the course of the 14 weeks.



From Left to Right: Carmen Blais (OSLP Training Coordinator); Lucie Edwards (Opiikapawiin Services LP CEO); Margaret Kenequanash (Wataynikaneyap CEO); Shirley King (Pikangikum); Carrie Lyon (Bearskin Lake); Jamie Keeash (North Caribou Lake); Sophie Mekanak (Bearskin Lake); Elder Sheila Decorte; and Laura Calmwind (OSLP Training Manager).



The AWLCGS Graduates posing with the Wataynikaneyap Flag upon completion of the program!

Top Row: Jamie Keeash, (North Caribou Lake) and Shirley King (Pikangikum)

Bottom Row: Sophie Mekanak (Bearskin Lake) and Carrie Lyon (Bearskin Lake)

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.

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

Pre-Employment Training Program



These trainees graduated from their training on December 17th, 2021!

Pre-Employment Graduates, from left to right: Jon Trist (North Caribou Lake); Katelyn Campbell (Poplar Hill); Johnathan Steven McKay (Kitchenuhmaykoosib Innuqwig); Penelope Roundhead (North Caribou); Christian Necan (Ojibway Nation of Saugeen); Sienna Campbell (Poplar Hill); Darr McKay (Sachigo Lake); Rebba Suggashie (Poplar Hill); Antonio Suggashie (Poplar Hill), Rico Owen (Poplar Hill); Kyle Mamakwa (Kingfisher Lake); Cameron Angeconeb (Lac Seul); and Jonny Carpenter (Slate Falls).

Pre-Employment Training Program Graduate Testimonials



My name is **Lee Danielson** and I am from Sachigo Lake but grew up in Red Lake. I joined the PET Program mostly for the cultural component of the course. I grew up off-reserve and wasn't really involved with a lot of culture. My favourite part of the program is the elder's teachings and community participation with the guest speakers. It's encouraging to hear their stories and know that their teachings can be transferable to you. After graduation, I hope to work for Wataynikaneyap Power and get a job on the project. I would recommend this training to others because it can open up doors for many other training programs available, and potentially lead to working a job on the project in the future.

My name is **Alexa Lawson** and I am from Slate Falls. I applied for this program to have more training to add to my resume overall. One of the challenging parts of the program is being away from home. My favourite part of the program has been learning more about traditional knowledge. My favourite activity was with Toni – going by the fire, cooking some moose meat, and eating rainbow trout. This week we have been learning about basic finance concepts like how to open a bank account. After completing this training program, I am thinking of looking into kitchen support. I would encourage others to just go for it if they are thinking of doing the program.



Security Guard Training



Security Guard training ran from December 5th to 9th, 2021 at the Quetico Conference Centre! Ten trainees received the instruction required to complete the Ontario Security Guard exam – which they all passed! The skills and certificates earned are transferable to security guard employment opportunities throughout Ontario and include CPR and First Aid certificates along with instruction in health and safety, emergency response preparation, the Canadian legal system, and effective communications.

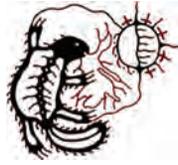
Congratulations to all Security Guard Training graduates, who can now work as a security guards at the camps and material yards used to build the Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission Line!



Security Guard Trainees, from Left to Right:

Alexa Lawson (Slate Falls); Hosea Grey (Cat Lake); Chandler Suggashie (Pikangikum); Daniel James (McDowell Lake); Katelyn Campbell (Poplar Hill); Siarra Jones (Lac Seul), Colleen Littledeer (Lac Seul), Pelly Dakota (McDowell Lake); Kaydon Kamenawatamin (Bearskin Lake); and Rollin Roundhead (Slate Falls).

Community Liaison Profile



Tommy Sainnawap
Wunnumin Lake First Nation

“I have been the Community Liaison for Wunnumin Lake First Nation since the Project started – about 7 years ago. I enjoy the job and the fact that I can work from home. My favourite part of the job is when a community member finds work – it brings a lot of excitement and makes the job very rewarding. I hope to stay working on the Project until it is complete to see where it goes.

To me, the project is very important because as an Independent Power Authority (IPA) community, the cost of electricity is very high. It is also important for our future generations. In the future, I hope to see more community members working on the Project.

When I am not working, I like to spend time on the land fishing.”

Return to In-Person Engagement



Wataynikaneyap Power and Opiikapawiin Services visited **Mishkeegogamang** on November 29 to provide a Project Status Update to Chief David Maskakeyash and community members. The meeting included presentations on: the proposed permanent access plan; Environment, Health and Safety; and Indigenous Participation.



Wataynikaneyap and Opiikapawiin have been keeping busy with community visits! Here we're heading home after a three-day road trip, starting in **Mishkeegogamang** (November 29), **Wabigoon Lake** (November 30th), and then **Lac Seul** (December 1st)!



If you have questions or suggestions about project engagement or communications including how best to engage with your community, please let us know. We would also appreciate suggestions for the content of this newsletter. Contact: **Karen Saunders**, Indigenous Engagement Manager: k.saunders@oslp.ca or (807) 620-1902.

Building Independence Conference



From Left to Right: Wataynikaneyap CEO Margaret Kenequanash; Ellen Tait (Sachigo Lake); Lola Quill (Pikangikum); Una Gott (Sandy Lake); Tommy Sainnawap (Wunnumin Lake); David Jeremiah (North Caribou Lake); and Lydia Big George (OSLP).

The Building Independence Conference was held November 16-18 at the Delta Hotel in Thunder Bay! The conference was organized and led by your Community Liaisons and included updates by the Project team on Construction Progress; Health and Safety; Indigenous Participation, Environmental matters, and more! There was also a Keynote Address by Garry Merkel R. P. F. of the Tahltan Nation in British Columbia who discussed Building Independence in First Nation Businesses and provided advice on overcoming Project challenges.



Business Readiness and Procurement of Goods and Services

If you have questions about business readiness, procurement and contracting opportunities, please contact: Ivan Donio, Indigenous Strategic Sourcing Advisor - i.donio@oslp.ca, Office: (807) 474-3300 ext. 211 or Cell: (807) 633-4856.



In this photo from July 2021, A fleet of matting trucks with light footprint tires are parked near Slate Falls Nation, while crews undergo forest fire prevention and safety training.

These vehicles are working under a Joint Venture between Northern Mat and Bridge, the Independent First Nation Alliance (IFNA) communities, and Lac Des Mille Lacs First Nation.

Business Registry

Opiikapawiiin 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 for information or to register your Participating First Nation business or joint venture.

Subcontractor Profile – WiskAir



WiskAir helicopters has been in business for 40 years in Northwestern Ontario with its head office in Thunder Bay. Over four decades we have discovered the meaning of connecting to First Nations communities and people. We service Northwestern Ontario businesses and communities with 10 helicopters ranging from small to heavy lift.

Over the years we have made many friends with our First Nations community partners and we continue to supply helicopters for use in traditional activities such as moose hunting and goose hunting. Our helicopters also support other activities like wildlife surveys, road reconnaissance and planning, bridge installation consulting, and other services needed to keep our First Nation community partners connected.

Over time Wiskair has built business relationships with First Nation communities and other suppliers, constructors and operators throughout the Northwest. We started these relationships in 2007 with the beginning of the establishment of the Ring of Fire and strengthened them through work on fiber-optic projects. Our relationship-building has continued with the Wataynikaneyap transmission line project and will keep building with upcoming road projects in the north.

Wiskair has established business relationships and agreements with most of the First Nation communities in Northwestern Ontario. This includes partnerships and joint ventures (JVs) with specific groups to provide access to helicopters for Projects within their traditional territories.

A Wiskair helicopter moving tower parts for the Wataynikaneyap Transmission Line at the Pipestone Camp.

Notably we have established First Nation helicopter companies with the TKG Group and Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation. These businesses were established to bring benefits to First Nations while respecting and honouring traditional land practices and peoples. We are proud to say this works very well.

Wiskair has been involved in the Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission Line Project since its beginning and continues to operate numerous helicopters on an ongoing basis on the Project.

We are proud of our active engagement. Our agreements and business relationships are meant to build connections and bring benefits to the First Nation communities with which we are engaged and indeed all our business partners in the North.



Please visit our website at:
www.wiskair.com

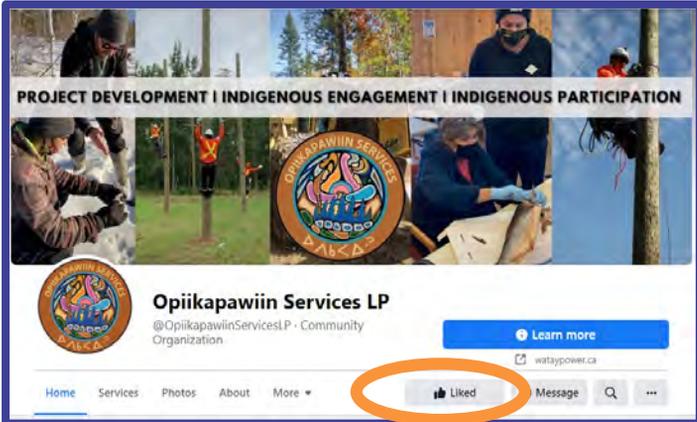


Communications



Wataynikaneyap Power Facebook Page
www.facebook.com/WataynikaneyapPower

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



Opiikapawiiin Services Facebook Page
www.facebook.com/OpiikapawiiinServicesLP

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

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!

Available Information Flyers

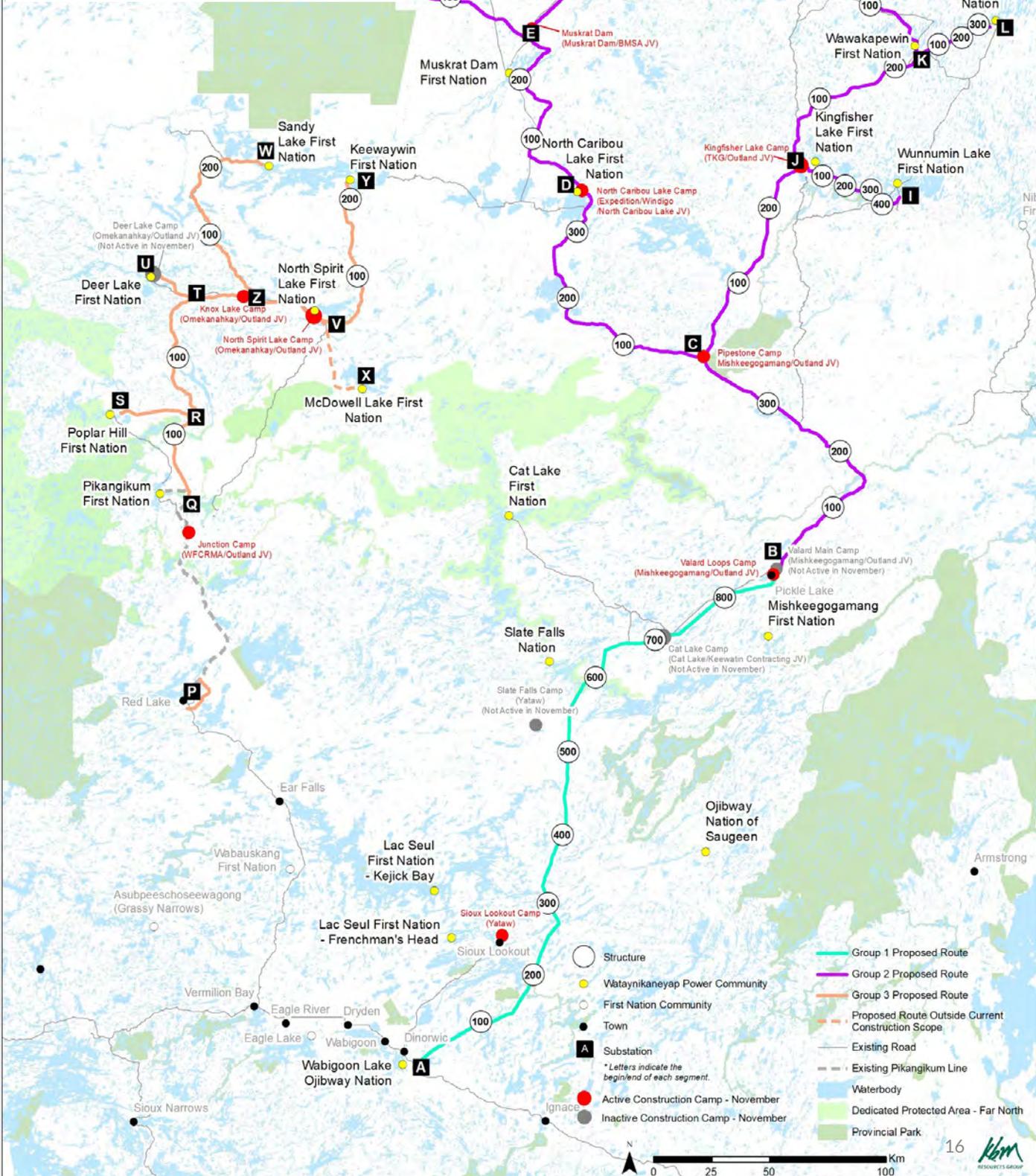
Information flyers are available in English and Anishiniimowin on the Opiikapawiiin and Wataynikaneyap Facebook pages under “Timeline Photos”.

- Permanent Access Plan
- Timber
- COVID Bubble
- Steel Structures
- Right of Way (Clearing)
- Structure Assembly
- Construction Camps
- Mobile Wastewater Treatment Plants
- Endangered Species Act (ESA) Permit
- Spills Awareness



WATAYNIKANEYAP POWER

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



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