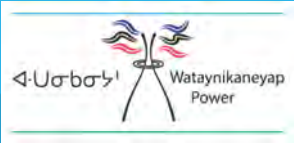


Batteries are used to power the control buildings at substations in case of a power outage. They provide approximately eight hours of power. Batteries are inspected and tested four times per year.



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

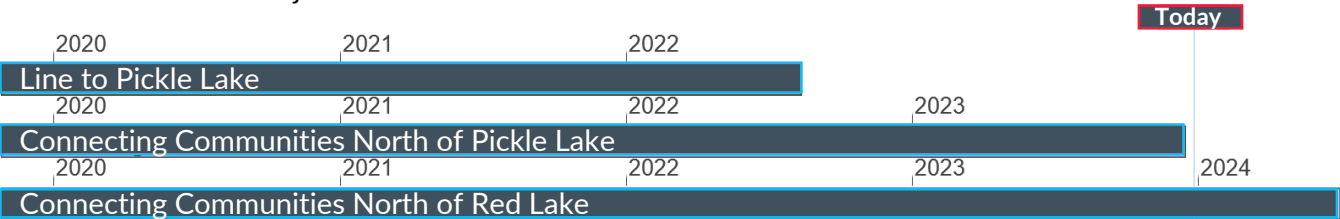


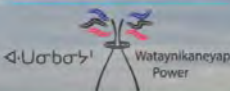
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Do you have a question or concern about the Wataynikaneyap Transmission Line Project?



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!



Message from Wataynikaneyap CEO, Margaret Kenequanash

Happy New Year!

I am excited to begin 2024 with a busy and full agenda– the year in which project construction will be complete, and Wataynikaneyap Power will become a fully operational power transmission company. Thank you to the Creator for another safe and successful year, and for the opportunities 2024 will bring!

Our journey to bring clean, reliable power to the First Nations has always been driven by need and unwavering vision. We were mandated to bring reliable energy to the remote First Nations. Our leadership created an ownership structure that ensured our First Nations would lead development on the Homeland, receive maximum benefits and have meaningful participation and involvement. The Wataynikaneyap Power transmission system will be a multi-generational asset that will enable equity for First Nations and provide the People with both power and revenues for generations to come.



2023 was a whirlwind! As of December 8, 2023, the project construction is 98% complete. We celebrated the connection of North Caribou Lake, Bearskin Lake, Wawakapewin, Kasabonika Lake, and Wunnumin Lake. Sachigo Lake, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, and Wapekeka have been connected and we will celebrate with them in 2024. These First Nations are now off diesel as their primary source of power, and reliable power will enable and enhance community and infrastructure development.

This transmission line is owned by the First Nations; it is for us. It will bring reliable energy to the First Nations. Your ownership of Wataynikaneyap Power does NOT change your Aboriginal and/or Treaty Rights, your right to consultation, your sacred responsibility to protect the land, or your ability to control development on the Homelands. Any company or project requesting connection to the transmission line must go through the proper process and they also must carry out their engagement with the People as part of their Duty to Consult. They will have to get environmental approvals and other permits. That will be their work to do; the transmission line corridor is not a “free for all” access for mining and government, and certainly it is not intended to open up development in the north. The decision for future development will stay with the People of the Homeland.

The north is our People’s Homeland, where we exercise our jurisdiction to govern. These inherent rights were given to us by the Creator. They can never be legislated. We must ensure the sustenance and livelihood of our people by protecting the water, fish, fowl and lands and resources. We will continue to protect the land for our future generations. The land has always been in the care of the Indigenous Peoples.

Miigwech to the keepers of the land and First Nation members, Leadership and partners Fortis Inc. for their continued support for the Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission Project. Miigwech to Ontario and Canada, for enabling the vision, external resource workers, and all the staff at Wataynikaneyap and Opiikapawiin for your diligence, perseverance, and hard work in bringing the Peoples’ vision to fruition.

Best wishes for a safe and happy 2024!

Sincerely, Margaret Kenequanash

Message from the Opiikapawiin Services LP Team



Happy New Year!

Opiikapawiin Services LP would like to express our sincere appreciation to all the Participating First Nations, Board Members, Community Liaisons, Elders, and Community Leaders, who played a crucial role in the success of the Wataynikaneyap Project in 2023. Your dedication and support are invaluable and we are truly grateful for all your hard work contributions. We are looking forward to 2024 and another year of shared successes!

Sincerely,
*Lucie Edwards and all of the
Opiikapawiin Services Staff*

Pre-Employment Training Program (8) graduation



January

Project Management Training course graduation



February

Pre-Employment Training Program (9) graduation



March

Pre-Employment Training Program Specialized Training (10) graduation



AZ Driver's training graduation



April

Recipient of FortisOntario's Future Generations Scholarship announced: Cheyenne Wassaykeesic of Poplar Hill First Nation

May

44 kV to 115 kV Conversion of Pikangikum line completed



June

Pre-Employment Training Program Specialized Training (11) graduation



Muskrat Dam assets energized and in service. Connection to the community is pending.

Wataynikaneyap Power filed its Transmission Rate application with the Ontario Energy Board for its 2024 revenue requirement

July

Bearskin Lake First Nation connected to the grid



Wawakapewin First Nation connected to the grid



Wunnumin Lake First Nation connected to the grid



August

September

Celebration of North Caribou Lake First Nation's 2022 connection to the grid



Sachigo Lake First Nation connected to the grid! Celebration will be in Jan.

October

Kasabonika Lake First Nation connected to the grid



November

Advanced Vegetation Management course graduation.



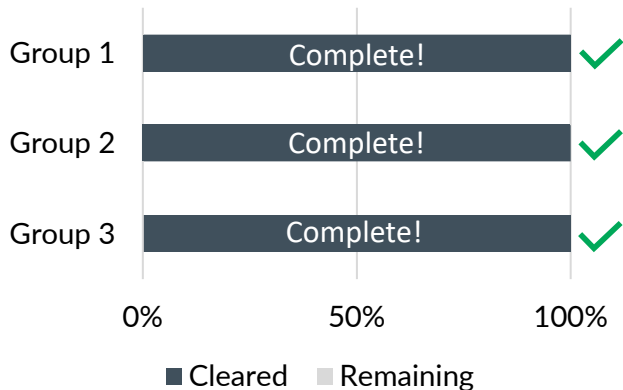
December

Looking forward to more connections and further shared successes in 2024!

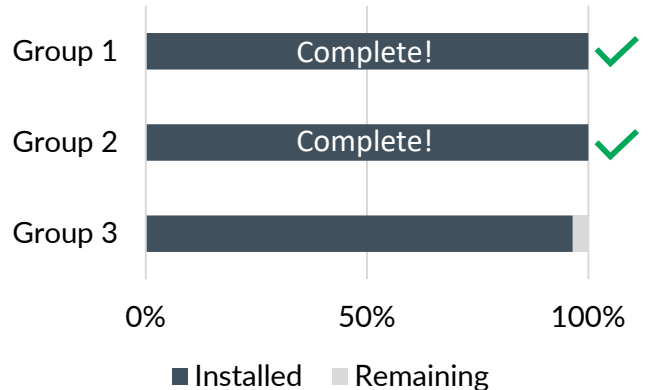
% complete up to December 2, 2023

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

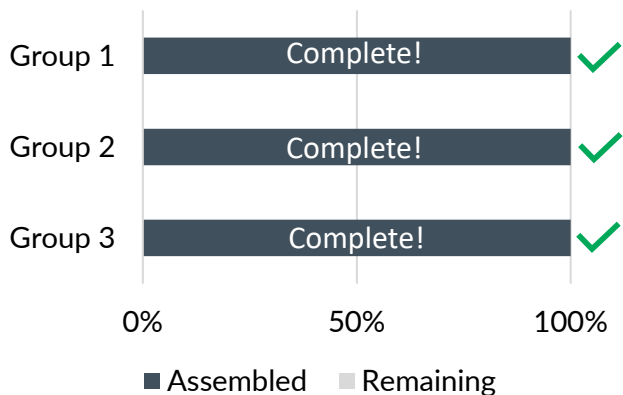
Right of Way Clearing



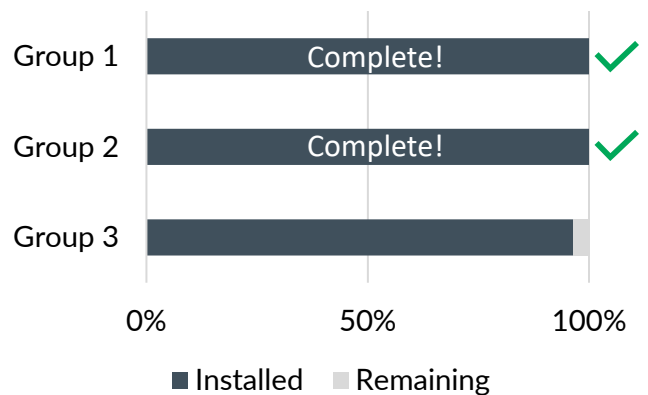
Foundation Installation



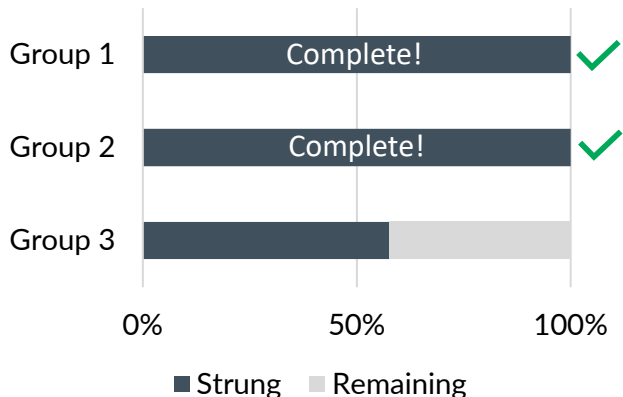
Tower Assembly



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

% complete up to December 2, 2023

- Civil
- Foundations
- Structural Steel
- Electrical



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

F (Bearskin Lake)
G (Sachigo Lake)
I (Wunnumin)
J (Kingfisher)

K (Wawakapewin)
L (Kasabonika Lake)
P (Red Lake)
Q (Pikangikum)
U (Deer Lake)

These substations are 100% complete!



Substation Photos



Wataynikaneyap Power PM's Electrical Engineer in Training, Matthew Watson, at Muskrat Dam Substation (E) in June.

Substations contain equipment that can be dangerous. This is why substations will be behind fences. Pay attention to the warning signs, keep your distance, and NEVER enter a substation for any reason.

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

Participating First Nation Employee Information (Up to November 31st, 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

Opiikapawiin Recruitment & Retention Team

Happy New Year!

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

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, taught participants about safe work practices near electrical power lines, Wilderness First Aid techniques, Utility Tree Worker training for vegetation maintenance, and also included a course in business management.

Graduation was on December 7, 2023. Congratulations and thank you to all the graduates for all your hard work!



OSLP Advanced Vegetation Management Graduates!

Top Row: Kyle Kakepetum (Keewaywin), Johnny Carpenter (Slate Falls), Karey Kakepetum (Keewaywin), Rene Mcdonald (Deer Lake), Antonio Suggashie (Poplar Hill)

Bottom Row: Graham Jobson (Trainer), Pardamus Owen (Poplar Hill), Barbara Gray (Lac Seul), Kisha Kakegamic (Keewaywin), Samantha Keesic (North Spirit)



Miigwetch to all the families for their support, and thank you to all Elders, staff, and trainers and facilitators who helped make the Advanced Vegetation Management a success!

Engagement

The Wataynikaneyap Power and Opiikapawiin Services team visited Sachigo Lake on November 29th, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Innuwug on December 11th, and Wapekeka First Nation on December 12th to provide Project Updates, and to gather feedback from land users on the proposed permanent access plan!

Big thank you to the community liaisons Ellen Tait (Sachigo Lake), Blake Hudson (KI) and Matthias Brown (Wapekeka) for all their work and assistance coordinating to ensure the meetings were a success.

Sachigo Lake First Nation – November 29, 2023



A delicious moose stew for lunch. Yum!



Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig – December 11, 2023



Wapekeka First Nation– December 12, 2023



Reviewing maps of the Right-of-way

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

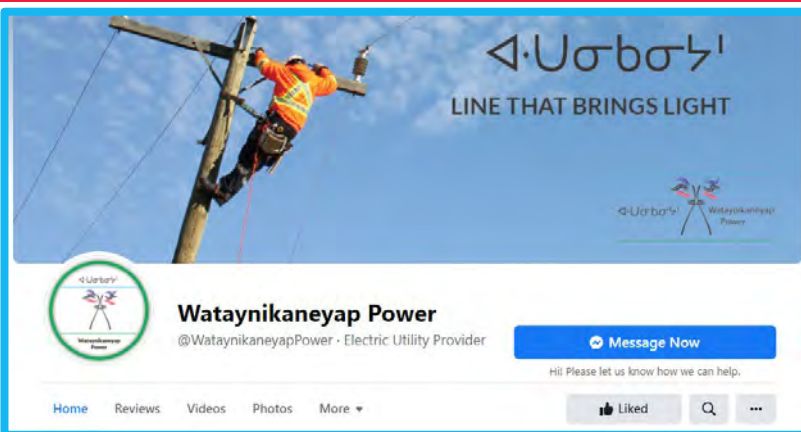
Business Directory

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:

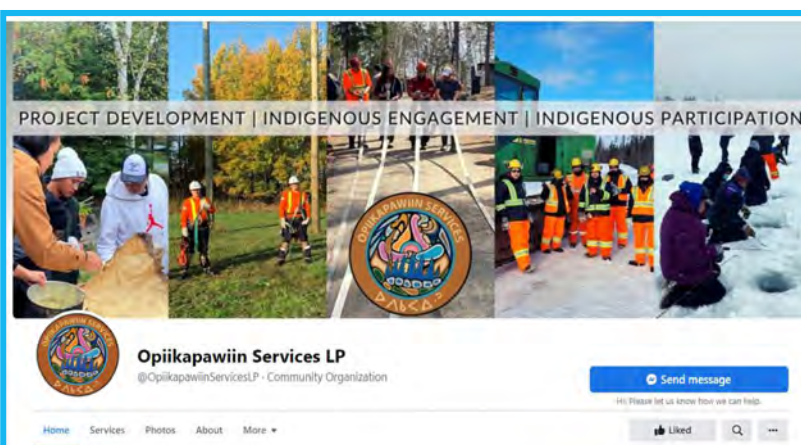
Ivan Donio,
Indigenous Strategic Sourcing Advisor
email i.donio@oslp.ca
Office: (807) 474-3300 ext. 308
Cell: (807) 633-4856

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>

