

PET 11 trainees participating in Swift Water Rescue training.

# 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

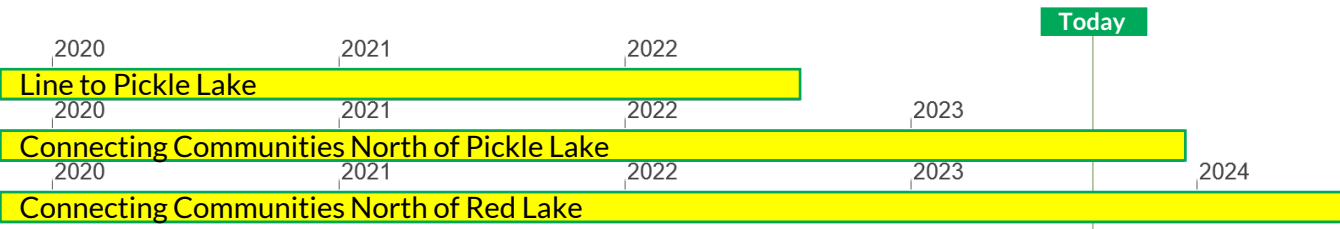


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Do you have a question or concern about the Wataynikaneyap Transmission Line Project?

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

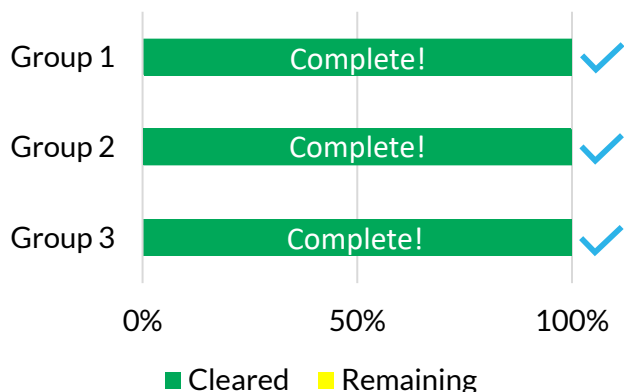
Email: [watayinquiries@wataypower.ca](mailto:watayinquiries@wataypower.ca)

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!

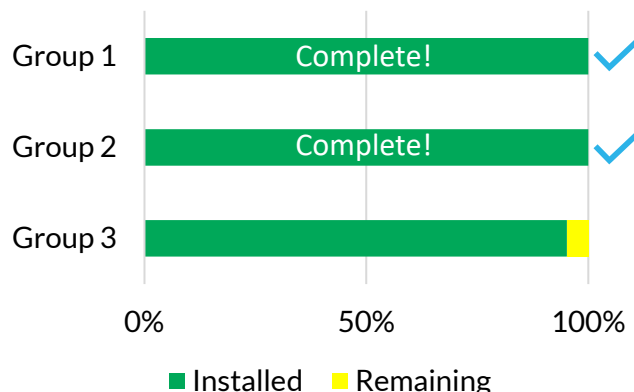
% complete up to August 05, 2023

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

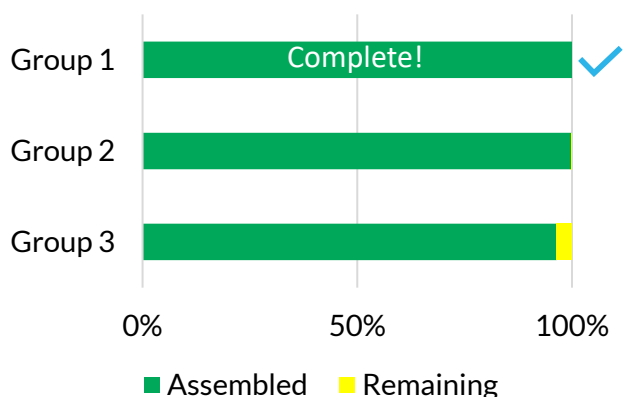
## Right of Way Clearing



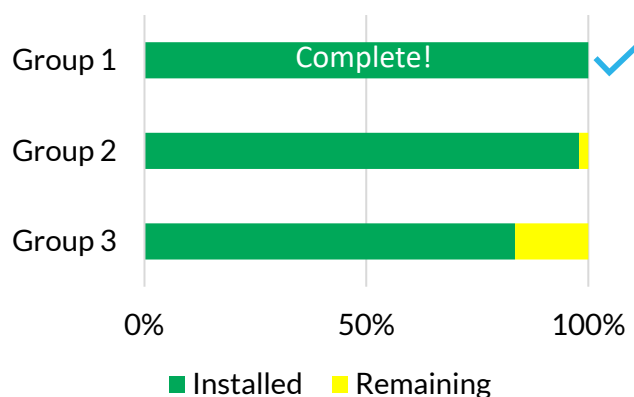
## Foundation Installation



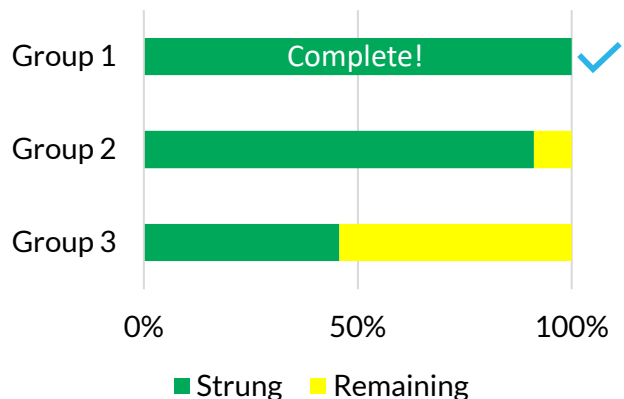
## Tower Assembly



## 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





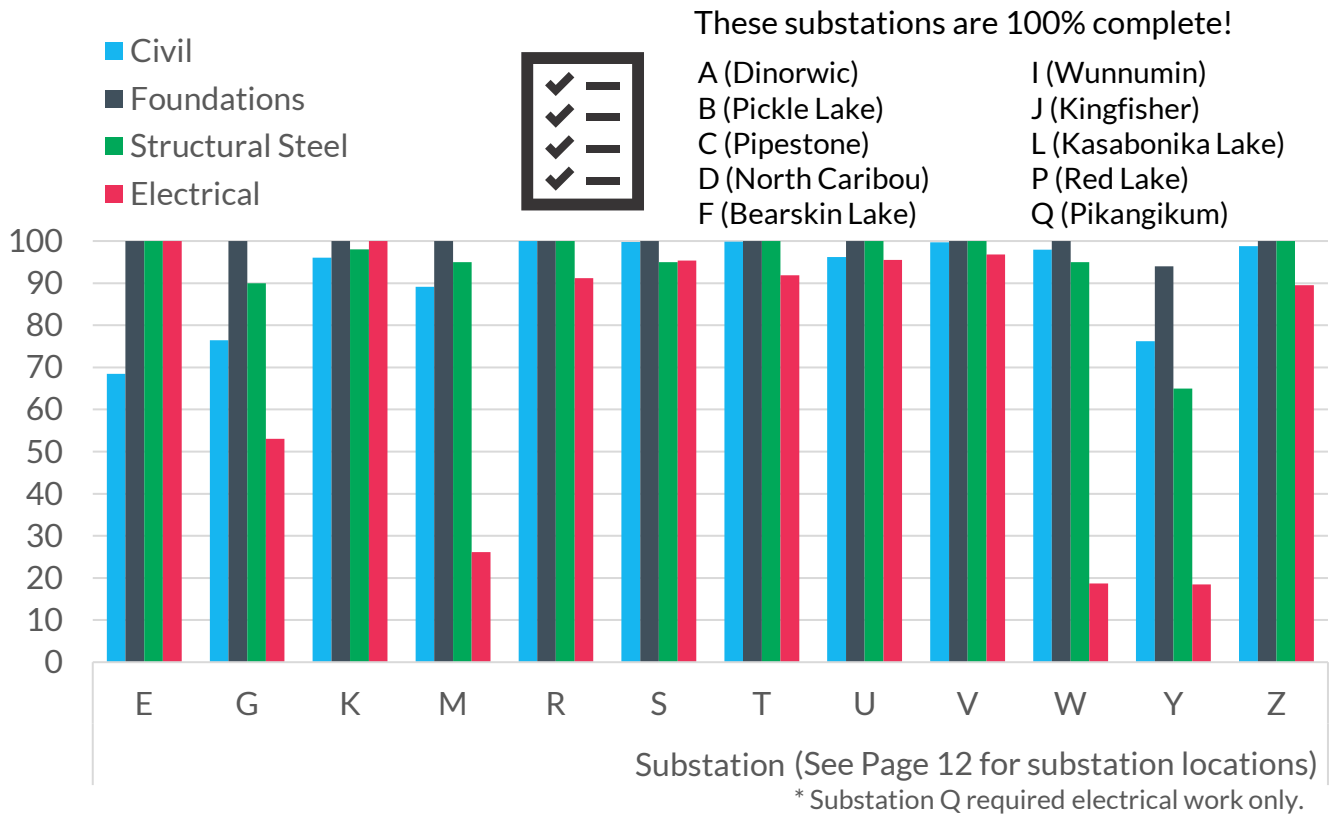
To connect 17 remote First Nations to the electrical grid, Wataynikaneyap Power is developing, managing construction, and operating approximately 1,800 kilometres of transmission lines in northwestern Ontario.

Wataynikaneyap Power is a licensed transmission company, regulated by the Ontario Energy Board. We own 1,800 km of transmission lines and 22 substations, so electricity can be transmitted from its source to your community's substation.

**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)

# Wataynikaneyap Substation Construction Progress

% complete as of August 05, 2023

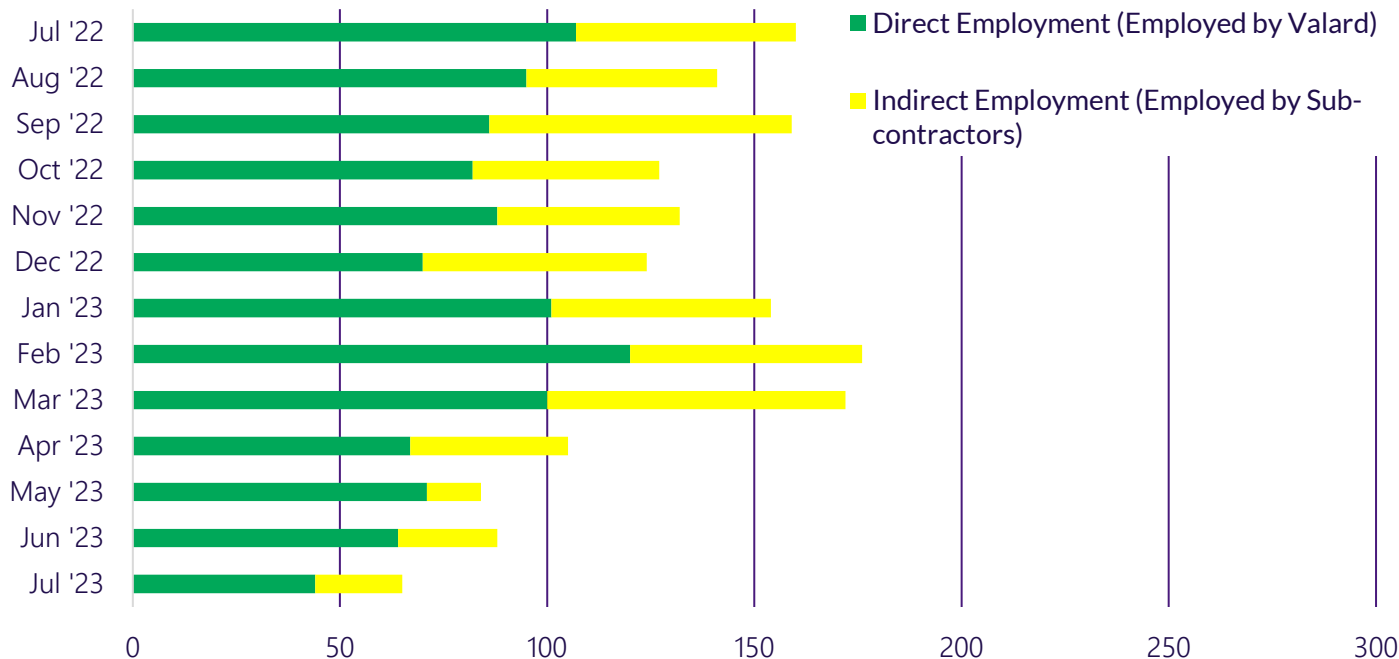


## Substation Photos



Aerial shot of Bearskin Lake Substation (F) in May. **Substation F is now 100% complete!**

## Participating First Nation Employee Information (Up to July 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

## INTERESTED IN WORKING ON THE PROJECT?

Please forward resumes to:

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



## Project Employee Spotlight



**Elaine Keesick ᐱᓄᓂᓂ ᐱᓂᓂ**  
**North Spirit Lake First Nation**



*Opiikapawiin Services*  
*Indigenous Recruitment and Retention Advisor*  
**Direct:** (807) 474-3300 x210  
**Cell:** (807) 633-7446 call/text  
**Email:** [e.keesick@oslp.ca](mailto:e.keesick@oslp.ca)

Starting as a Training Assistant at OSLP in January 2019, I progressed to my current role as the Indigenous Recruitment and Retention Advisor in May 2019. In this role, I offer guidance to our team and the EPC Contractor (Valard) on recruitment and retention matters. Our aim is to increase the employment of PFN members on the Project, so I work closely with Valard who is responsible for the hiring. Currently, we're exploring post-project activities and maximizing employment opportunities for our members within their home communities to maintain the powerlines!

My typical workday involves multitasking, including checking and responding to emails. Today, I am preparing a report about our recent Community Visit to Sandy Lake, detailing the preparations, visits, turnout, and areas for improvement. I also assist PFN members with resumé updates and employment issues to ensure positive outcomes. My expertise in human resources and statistics play a crucial role in my work - along with having a good amount of patience. I also excel at Excel!

I enjoy working with statistics now, which is something I never thought I would say. These figures, however, offer snapshots and tells a story at any point in time. One accomplishment I'm proud of is implementing the Wataynikaneyap Labour Pool Database, a recruitment tool that required collaboration with a team and consultants. Helping people in a meaningful way is something I truly enjoy.

My strong work ethic stems from my hard-working parents. When I used to go home for visits, wood haul was one of my favourite activities. No matter how cold or how deep the snow was, we'd carry those logs out. This same commitment and effort applies to my current role - even during challenging times, others depend on me, and I strive to not disappoint.

While I reside in Thunder Bay, I grew up in Red Lake, ON and am also a North Spirit Lake band member. I worked in education for a number of years at Northern Nishnawbe Education Council, and hold a Human Resources Diploma and a Human Resources Management Diploma from Confederation College, in addition to a Management Certificate in First Nations Governance from the University of Lethbridge. I also previously completed part-time courses in the HR/LR program at Lakehead University.

On a personal note, I have a shih tzu/terrier/dachshund cross named Raspberry, who's become my 14 lb guard dog and loyal companion. As a fun fact, I can moonwalk - something my daughter loves to share with anyone who visits!

The Wataynikaneyap Project is a huge Project with a lot of moving parts, and requires the vigilance of an orchestra conductor - knowing who is playing where, what comes next, all while trying to keep the momentum. Opiikapawiin has a remarkable team, and our collective effort aims to benefit participating communities and members. One colleague's words resonate with me - we have a vested interest in our people who are part of the Wataynikaneyap Project. Graduation days in our training programs and community visits are personal highlights. As a member of one of the owner communities, I am passionate about the Project's success, and in building community capacity. I would like and expect to see our own peoples working on maintaining our lines once the Project is completed, and far into the future!

## Pre-Employment Training (PET) 11 Graduation – June 16, 2023

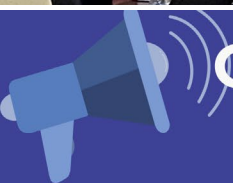


**Congratulations to all PET 11 Graduates!** Dakota Goodman (Sandy Lake); Conrad Trout (Lac Seul); Jonathan McKay (KI); Linda Kamenawatamin (Bearskin Lake); Sam Keesic (North Spirit Lake); Dorwin Strang, (Pikangikum); Antonio Suggashie, (Poplar Hill); Kyle Kakepetum (Keewaywin); Gregory Moskotaywene, Bearskin Lake; Alexander Southwind (Lac Seul); Kasha Kakegamick (Wabigoon Lake/Deer Lake); Kayle McKay (Bearskin Lake); Holy Maggrah, (Wabigoon Lake); Kylie Fiddler (North Caribou Lake).



**The Wataynikaneyap Power GP Board congratulating the PET 11 Graduates.**

From left to right: Glen King (WPGP Board), Michael Comerford (WPGP Board) Tim Lavoie (FortisOntario), Margaret Kenequanash (Wataynikaneyap Power CEO), Frank McKay (WPGP Board), Harry Meekis (WPGP Board), Lucie Edwards (OSLP CEO).



## 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



## Fortis Dinner – July 19, 2023

A celebratory dinner was arranged on July 19, 2023 with Fortis Inc. and Wataynikaneyap Power in celebration of the ongoing progress of the Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission Project.



Margaret Kenequanash and Lucie Edwards welcome Fortis and FortisOntario to Thunder Bay.



Harry Meekis, Margaret Kenequanash, and Frank McKay present Scott Hawkes with a retirement present as well. Scott was CEO of FortisOntario and a huge supporter of the Project. Margaret always warned him she would one day gift him a framed photo of herself!



Harry Meekis, Frank McKay, Margaret Kenequanash, and Gerry McKay present Ron Stewart with a retirement present. Ron was instrumental in the successful development of the Wataynikaneyap Power Project.

## Wataynikaneyap Transmission Line Capacity Building

## Energizing Youth Energy Systems Tour – August 16 – 18, 2023



The Energizing Youth group went on an Ontario Energy Systems Tour in Southern Ontario from August 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. They visited the Bruce Power Nuclear Power Plant on toured a roof top solar plant, and also had the opportunity to see Niagara Falls!

**From Left to Right:** Adrienne Anderson (Kasabonika Lake Energizing Youth), Una Gott (Community Liaison - Sandy Lake), Dakota Derosier (Community Liaison Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation), Shadrack Barkman (Sachigo Energizing Youth), Storm McKay (Energizing Youth - KI).



## Energizing Youth Energy Systems Tour – August 16 – 18, 2023



Ellen Tait and Adrienne Anderson diving into the "isotope pit" at the Bruce Power Nuclear Power Station.



Storm McKay Handling "isotopes" at the Bruce Power Nuclear Visitor Centre.



Dakota Derosier (Wabigoon Community Liaison), and Shadrack Barkman (Sachigo Energizing Youth) on the Rooftop Solar Tour with Dan Margit-Bako (Skyline Energy Asset Management).



Una Gott, OPG Tour Guide/Employee, Ellen Tait, Adrienne Anderson at the Sir Adam Beck Hydroelectric Generation Station No. 2.



Skyline Energy Asset Management - Roof Top Solar Tour



Wawakapewin First Nation – August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

The Wataynikaneyap Power/Opiikapawiin Services team travelled to Wawakepwin First Nation on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 to provide a Project Status update, including on Permanent Access, Operations and Maintenance, and Indigenous Participation.



Elders Saggius Rae, Elizabeth Rae, Jordan Quequish (Land Protocols Coordinator/Advisor), and Sonny Mamakwa (TKG) boarding the float plane to Wawakapewin!



Elders Saggius & Elizabeth Rae getting a tour of Wawakapewin with Councillor Rhoda Meekis.

Wunnumin Lake First Nation– August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

The Wataynikaneyap Power/Opiikapawiin Services team travelled to Wunnumin Lake on August 3<sup>rd</sup> to provide a Project Status update, including on Permanent Access, Operations and Maintenance, and Indigenous Participation!





## 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.

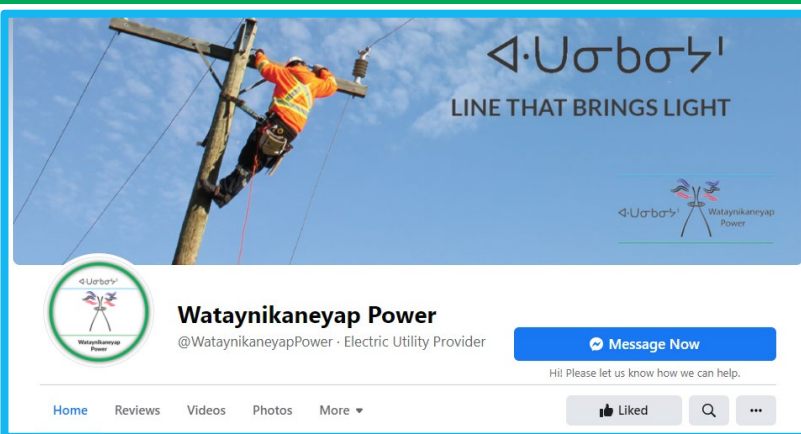
For information on how to register your Participating First Nation business or joint venture, please contact:

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



