

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2025

Serpent River First Nation Bi-Monthly Newsletter



Newsletter Highlights



CDWAI Delivering
on Our Priorities
Together

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Nation and Huron-
Superior Catholic
District School
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Honouring a
Legacy of Care:
Dr. Wannan
Retires After
Over 40 Years
of Service

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Manoominike-Giizis

| 1

August is known as Manoominike-giizis, the Ricing Moon, or Manoominii Giizis, meaning Grain Moon. This moon marks the time when manoomin—wild rice—ripens and is ready to harvest. Manoomin is more than just food; it is a sacred gift from the Creator, central to our way of life.

As our communities travel to lakes and rivers to gather manoomin, the process is done with ceremony, gratitude, and respect, reflecting the values of balance, harmony, and interdependence. This harvest season strengthens our community as we come together to work, share meals, teach youth, and give thanks.

The Ricing Moon reminds us of our responsibilities to the land and water. It teaches stewardship, sustainability, and the importance of protecting the ecosystems that sustain life. It is also a time to reflect on the cycles of the natural world and the deep relationships between people and the gifts of the Earth.

Whether referred to as Manoominike-giizis, Manoominii Giizis, or Grain Moon, August is a sacred time of ceremony, connection, and care for the future—honoring the traditions that continue to nourish both body and spirit.





Staff Updates



Introducing Talon Horst

Welcome Our New Lifestyle Worker

Talon Horst is joining us as the new Lifestyle Worker at the Lifestyle Centre!

"My name is Talon Horst, and I am 25 years old and a member of Serpent River First Nation. I moved to Cutler just last year with my wife and my 2 sons, and I am very excited to begin working at the Lifestyle Center here on the reserve. In high school, I participated in many different sports, including badminton, track and field, basketball, and rugby, but my favourite sport is football. I played football at Mount Allison University and York University. I continue to play flag football and would love to grow the interest in the sport in our area. I am looking forward to being a friendly, helpful face at the Lifestyle Centre for anyone who would like to use the space."

Talon's Work Schedule:

Wednesday & Thursday: 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Friday to Sunday: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

We would also like to welcome the following new staff members in Health and Long-term Care:

- Lindsay Kutschke – Community Health Nurse – Lindsay began her role on July 3rd. She will be in the clinic 3 days a week.
- Dominyke Desrosier – Home and Community Care Nurse – She will start with the Home and Community Care Team on August 5, 2025.
- Jessica McLean – PSW – Home and Community Care – started on June 25, 2025



Staff Updates



Summer Students

We would also like to acknowledge our summer students who are working hard with us from July 7 to August 28.

Infrastructure/Housing

1. Rae Meawasige
2. Tyson Meawasige-Foisy
3. Bailey Owl
4. Gerald Southwind Jr
5. Xavier Baranyai
6. Mason Day

Summer Day Camp

1. Abbie Johnston
2. Trenton Essex
3. Nolan Trudeau
4. Lennox Trudeau
5. Sorin Kozeyah

Clerical/floater

1. Isabella Fraser
2. Zoey Day

Social Service and Culture

1. Dallas Day

Anishinaabemowin Phrases/Words of the Month:



Manoomin - Wild rice

Boodwedaa - Let's make a fire

Jidmoonhag - Squirrels

Dagwaagin - It is Fall

Miskozaawi-Babagiwayaani-Giizhigad- It is
Orange Shirt Day

Community Events Calendar

AUGUST 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Every Tuesday - Kids Hapkido Martial Arts Class, 4:30-5:30pm at Lifestyle Centre			1	2
3	4 Use & Occupancy Verification & Map Hand-Back Celebration, 5-7pm, Community Centre	5 All Ages Puppet Show, 6:30pm, Community Centre	6 Beach Day, 1pm, Stockwater Beach Go Forward Community Information Session, 5-8pm, SRFN Community Hall Day Care will be taking the children on field trip to Inspired Tots in Espanola	7 Blessing of the Grounds, 5-7pm, Sacred Fire Arbor	8 Genaabaajing 34 th Traditional Jintamok Social, 7-9pm	9 Sunrise Ceremony, 6am, Sacred Fire Arbor Full Moon Ceremony, 8pm, Sacred Fire Arbor Genaabaajing 34 th Traditional Jintamok
10 Sunrise Ceremony, 6am, Sacred Fire Arbor Genaabaajing 34 th Traditional Jintamok	11 2023/24 AGM, 6-7PM at SRFN Community Hall	12 Lunch and Learn with Patricia Toulouse Traditional Health Practitioner, 12pm at Kenabutch Health Centre Boating Course	13 Back to School Clinic, 9am-3pm at Kenabutch Health Centre	14 Back to School Clinic, 1-3pm at Kenabutch Health Centre	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Friends and Family Support Group, 2-4pm, Kenabutch Health Centre	27	28	29	30





Community Events Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Labour Day	2 Every Tuesday - Kids Hapkido Martial Arts Class, Time for Sept TBD, at Lifestyle Centre	3	4 Mindfulness Thursday, every Thursday in September, 6-7pm at the Teepee at the Family Centre (KFC)	5	6 FASD Colour Run, 10am, Pow Wow grounds & Lifestyle Centre
7 Full Moon	8	9 Lunch and Learn with Patricia Toulouse Traditional Health Practitioner, 12pm at Kenabutch Health Centre	10	11 Diabetes Café, 10am-3pm, Kenabutch Health Centre Services Networking Event & Community BBQ, 10AM-2PM, Community Centre Mindfulness Thursday	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Mindfulness Thursday	19	20
21	22 Lunch & Learn Arthritis, 12 pm Community Centre	23 Friends and Family Support Group, 2-4pm, Kenabutch Health Centre	24	25 Mindfulness Thursday	26	27
28	29	30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation/ Orange Shirt Day		Mindfulness Thursday		

Genaabaajing 34th Traditional Jiintamok



GENAABAAJING
34th Traditional Jiintamok
M'NDAADENDING BIINJI MSHKOZIWIN
Honouring the Strength Within

AUGUST 9-10 2025

HOST DRUM: Bear Creek
CO-HOST DRUM: Whistling Wind
EMCEE: Darren McGregor
HEAD ELDER: Gloria Oshkabewisens
HEAD VETERAN: Philip Moore
HEAD DANCERS: Albert Plant III & Mackenzie Jacobs
HEAD YOUTH DANCERS: Picked Daily
ARENA DIRECTOR: Robert Stoneypoint

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8
Social 7-9pm
SATURDAY, AUGUST 9
Grand Entry 12pm & 7pm
Feast 5pm
SUNDAY, AUGUST 10
Grand Entry 12pm
Giveaway 4pm

SPECIALS & NOTICE
Adult: Woodland Dance Specials • Youth: All Category Special • Hand Drum Special
First 5 drums (minimum 4 singers) to receive honorarium

Serpent River First Nation, ON
robbie.sago@serpentriverfn.com

• Rain or Shine • Drug/Alcohol/Pet Free Gathering • Rough Tent Camping Available •

M'NDAADENDING BIINJI MSHKOZIWIN

Genaabaajing Traditional Jiintamok 2025 Theme is,
"Honouring the Strength Within"



This year's pow wow theme, "Honouring the Strength Within," carries deep meaning and purpose. It was chosen to recognize and honour all those impacted by addiction — those currently walking that path, those we have lost, and those walking the journey of recovery.

Addiction touches every family, every community. To those in the struggle: we see you, we value you, and we are here for you. Your journey matters.

We remember those we've lost with love and respect. Your battles were real, your lives mattered, and we carry your memory in our hearts.

And we proudly celebrate those in recovery — whether it's your first day or your twentieth year of sobriety. Every step forward is an act of strength, and your courage inspires us all.

This year, we gather to honour the strength that lives within each of us — the strength to heal, to support one another, and to carry our stories forward with love and dignity.

Together, we dance, we heal, and we honour the strength within.

Genaabaajing Traditional Jiintamok Committee

Genaabaajing Traditional Jiintamok

VOLUNTEER CALL OUT

We are looking for community members who want to share some of their time to help us make our Jiintamok the best we can!

If you are interested in volunteering your time, please send your name and contact info.

Highschool Students Welcome

CONTACT US



705-227-0845
(Call/Text Robbie)



powwow@serpentriverfn.com



Genaabaajing Traditional Jiintamok Giveaway DONATIONS



We are inviting community, programs, businesses, and organizations to help us fill our giveaway blankets. Your generosity is appreciated and will go far!

Items to Consider:

Back-to-school supplies
Houseware
Toiletries
Small toys
Towels/blankets
Tools
Tupperware, etc.

ITEMS MUST BE BRAND NEW

DROP OFF

Kenabutch Family Centre
261 Village Road
Monday to Thursday
8am to 4pm

Genaabaajing 34th Traditional Jiintamok

Genaabaajing Traditional Jiintamok

ACCOMMODATIONS

Massey.

Mohawk Motel: 335 Sauble St., Massey ON • 705-865-2722 • www.mohawkmotel.ca
Massey Motel: Sauble St. West, Massey ON • 705-865-2500 • www.themasseymotel.com

Spanish

www.townofspanish/visitors/accommodations

Elliot Lake

Hampton Inn: 279 Hwy 108, Elliot Lake ON • 705-848-4008 • www.hilton.com

Blind River

Old Mill Inn: 10 Martin St • 1-800-871-0842
Lakeview Inn: 143 Causley St • 705-356-0800
Northshore Wayside In : 181 Causley St • 705-356-2249 www.northshorewaysideinn.com

*We have taken the most recent information we could find online



Genaabaajing Traditional Jiintamok **SUNRISE CEREMONY**

Open to all
Skirts are encouraged but not mandatory.



Genaabaajing Jiintamok
Sacred Fire Arbor

August 9 & 10, 2025
6am



Genaabaajing Traditional Jiintamok **FULL MOON CEREMONY** *With Harlene Essex*

Open to all girls, women and those who identify with feminine energy to honour Grandmother Moon.
You are welcome to bring your bundles.
Skirts are encouraged but not mandatory.



Genaabaajing Traditional Jiintamok **BLESSING OF THE GROUNDS**

The Genaabaajing Traditional Jiintamok Committee welcomes community and visitors to a potluck feast, lighting of the sacred fire and blessing of the grounds.
Please bring a dish to contribute to the feast



Genaabaajing Jiintamok
Sacred Fire Arbor

Saturday, August 9, 2025
8pm



Genaabaajing Jiintamok
Sacred Fire Arbor

Thursday, August 7, 2025
5pm to 7pm



Upcoming Community Events



FASD Colour Run

Join us for a fun color run to raise awareness for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)! We'll start at the Pow Wow Grounds, getting splashed with colours as we run. Afterward, enjoy a free BBQ lunch at the Lifestyle Centre.

It's a great way to have fun and support a worthy cause! We can't wait to see you there!



DATE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH 2025



TIME

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 10 AM

RACE BEGINS AT 11 AM



LOCATION

POW WOW GROUNDS & LIFESTYLE CENTRE



Contact Sarah Kozeyah (705) 844-1864

for more information



LUNCH & LEARN: Arthritis

September is Arthritis Awareness Month. We invite you to participate in an enlightening discussion about arthritis and its effects on daily life. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about this condition, understand its implications, and explore effective ways to manage it.

Prioritizing your health and well-being is essential, and we are here to support you on this journey. We look forward to sharing this valuable information with you and hope to see you there!



DATE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2025



TIME

12 PM



LOCATION

COMMUNITY CENTRE



2023/24 Annual General Meeting (AGM)



DATE

MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2025



TIME

6:00PM-7:30PM



LOCATION

SERPENT RIVER FIRST NATION COMMUNITY HALL



Attendance is available virtually or in-person. Please note that the AGM is ONLY for registered 201 members of Serpent River First Nation. To be admitted virtually, you must log in using your first or last name or we will be unable to admit you. Available upon request - madelaine.oneill@serpentriverfn.com



Kids Hapkido Martial Arts Classes

New participants always welcome



DATE

EVERY TUESDAY



NEW TIME

4:30 - 5:30PM



LOCATION

LIFESTYLE CENTRE



705-844-1864

sarah.kozeyah@serpentriverfn.com

Upcoming Community Events

• BACK² SCHOOL CLINIC

Hosted by the Health Department

Youth Wellness Event

For Youth ages 14-18 years old

ALGOMA PUBLIC HEALTH | CHECKUPS | HEALTH EDUCATION SUCH AS:

- Sexual Health
- Substance Abuse
- Naloxone training
- Mental Health
- Immunizations
- Relationships
- Eating Disorders
- Stress Management

Pick up your free back-to-school gift!



DATE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14TH, 2025



TIME

1-3PM



LOCATION

HEALTH FAIR STYLE EVENT - KENABUTCH HEALTH CENTRE



Register by calling the Kenabutch Health Centre at:
705 844 2152

Serpent River First Nation's BACK TO SCHOOL CLINIC

Hosted by the Health Department

Back to School Fair

For Youth ages 4-13 years old *Pick up your free back-to-school gift!*

Please join us for our annual back to school fair and ensure your children are up to date medically. See booths such as;

- Algoma Public Health
- Hearing Screens
- Mental Health
- Eye Tests
- Immunizations
- Height & Weight
- Children's Oral Health
- Free BBQ & Activities for kids



DATE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2025



TIME

10AM-3PM



LOCATION

OUTDOOR FAIR STYLE EVENT - KENABUTCH HEALTH CENTRE



Register by calling the Kenabutch Health Centre at:
705 844 2152



Craft and Quilt - Smoking Cessation Program

Join our smoking cessation program for adults aged 18 and older who want to quit smoking or vaping.

In collaboration with Lisa-Marie Naponse, a Health Educator from Maamwesying, we offer the support and resources needed for a successful transition to a smoke-free lifestyle.



DATE

TBD



TIME

TBD



LOCATION

TBD



Heritage Week Happenings

We would like to share all the amazing events happening for Heritage week from August 4-10th 2025. All events are posted under the events section on our Facebook page. They are also pinned at the top of our Facebook page under the "featured" section.

Monday Aug 4th ~ 5-7pm

Use & Occupancy Verification & Map Hand-Back Celebration
Community Centre

Tuesday Aug 5th ~ 6:30pm

Rabbit & Bear Paws Puppet Show
Community Centre

Wednesday Aug 6th

1-5pm ~ Beach Day at Stockwater
5-8pm ~ Go Forward Community Information Session + Dinner at Community Centre

Thursday Aug 7th ~ 5-7pm

Blessing of the Grounds at Genaabaajing Jiintamok
Bring a dish to contribute to feast

Friday Aug 8th ~ 6-9pm

Drum Social at Genaabaajing Jiintamok

Saturday Aug 9th & Sunday Aug 10th

34th Genaabaajing Jiintamok
Grand Entry at 12pm daily
Feast ~ Saturday at 5pm
Giveaway ~ Sunday at 4pm

Upcoming Community Events



Hosted by Bimose Mamaawi

Beach Day

Beach day fun is on!

Join us for tug of war, sandcastle building, and the ultimate cardboard boat contest!

BBQ, music, and good vibes all day long — don't miss it!



DATE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6TH, 2025



TIME

STARTS @ 1PM | CANOE RACES @ 2PM
CARBOARD BOAT CHALLENGE @ 3PM | BBQ @ 4PM



LOCATION

STOCKWATER BEACH

For information, people can reach out to:
Melissa Chesterfield 705-863-3321
melissa.chesterfield@serpentriverfn.com



Hosted by Bimose Mamaawi

Cardboard Boat Contest

Join the annual cardboard boat contest during beach day!

Build your boat using just cardboard and tape — then test it on the water and see if it floats or sinks!



DATE

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 6 2025



TIME

3:00 PM



LOCATION

STOCKWATER BEACH

No need to register, just show up and join the fun.



Education Department presents as part of Heritage Week...

All Ages Funny Puppet Show!

Rabbit and Bear Paws will be at our community!



DATE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025



TIME

6:30PM



LOCATION

COMMUNITY CENTRE



For more information, please contact:
Nikita Rousseau
nikita.rousseau@serpentriverfn.com



Hosted by Bimose Mamaawi
Sponsored by The Waterways Collective



Annual Canoe Race



DATE

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 6TH, 2025



TIME

2:00PM



LOCATION

STOCKWATER BEACH

Prizes =

1st \$250

2nd \$150

3rd \$100

Upcoming Community Events



Mindfulness Thursdays

Join us every Thursday for an evening of mindfulness



DATE

EVERY THURSDAY IN SEPTEMBER 2025



TIME

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM



LOCATION

TEEPEE AT THE FAMILY CENTRE (KFC)

Wear Comfortable clothing



Serpent River First Nation Social Services & Nogdawindamin

Social Services Networking Event & Community BBQ

Join us for a networking BBQ bringing together Serpent River First Nation Social Services and Nogdawindamin Family and Community Services.



DATE

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2025



TIME

COMMUNITY BBQ 12-2PM

- We invite community to join us for: a Bounce House, Cotton Candy, Popcorn, Fishpond, Connect Four, Janga, and a Medicine pouch-making activity for families to participate in!
- This is a great opportunity to learn about the SRFN Social Services and Cultural Department and Nogdawindamin programs. Come meet and learn from staff about available services, and programs you may be eligible for.



LOCATION

SERPENT RIVER BAND OFFICE/COMMUNITY CENTRE –
195 VILLAGE RD E, SERPENT RIVER FIRST NATION



Friends and Family Support Group

A wellness support group for individuals of loved ones with substance use disorder

If you are a family member or caregiver of someone with a substance use issue, we invite you to our monthly support group. These meetings provide a friendly space to connect with others, share your experiences, and find support for the challenges of addiction.

You can take part in open discussions and learn helpful strategies to assist your loved ones while also taking care of yourself. Held in a relaxed and comfortable setting, these meetings aim to create a safe space for those looking for understanding and support on this tough journey. Remember, you don't have to face this struggle alone.



DATE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH, 2025



TIME

2PM – 4PM



LOCATION

KENABUTCH HEALTH CENTRE



For more information contact the Kenabutch Health Centre at (705) 844-2152



Friends and Family Support Group

A wellness support group for individuals of loved ones with substance use disorder

If you are a family member or caregiver of someone with a substance use issue, we invite you to our monthly support group. These meetings provide a friendly space to connect with others, share your experiences, and find support for the challenges of addiction.

You can take part in open discussions and learn helpful strategies to assist your loved ones while also taking care of yourself. Held in a relaxed and comfortable setting, these meetings aim to create a safe space for those looking for understanding and support on this tough journey. Remember, you don't have to face this struggle alone.



DATE

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 27TH 2025



TIME

2PM – 4PM



LOCATION

KENABUTCH HEALTH CENTRE



For more information contact the Kenabutch Health Centre at (705) 844-2152

Upcoming Community Events

Dshindaaniin Mshkikiwan "lets talk medicine"



MAAMWESYING
NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES INC.

Lunch and Learn with Patricia Toulouse Traditional Health Practitioner



DATE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2025



TIME

12:00 PM



LOCATION

KENABUTCH HEALTH CENTRE

One-on-one appointments also available

Dshindaaniin Mshkikiwan "lets talk medicine"



MAAMWESYING
NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES INC.

Lunch and Learn with Patricia Toulouse Traditional Health Practitioner



DATE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12TH, 2025



TIME

12:00 PM



LOCATION

KENABUTCH HEALTH CENTRE

One-on-one appointments also available



Diabetes Cafe

Join us for our friendly drop-in sessions designed for those who are newly diagnosed or currently living with diabetes!

- Connect with others and take part in monthly discussions and fun challenges to help you thrive while managing diabetes.
- Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.



DATE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2025



TIME

10AM - 3PM



LOCATION

KENABUTCH HEALTH CENTRE

For more information contact the
Kenabutch Health Centre at (705) 844-2152



Boating Course



DATE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12TH 2025



TIME

9AM-3PM



LOCATION

TBD




Please call or email Jennifer Prevost, Employment and
Training Coordinator to register at:

Landline: 705-844-2418 Ext. 333

Email: jennifer.prevost@serpentriverfn.com

Upcoming Community Events/ Notices




Robinson Huron Treaty
LITIGATION FUND

Go Forward Community Information Sessions

Learn more about the ongoing priorities of the Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund (RHTLF), including updates on current litigation, current issues and the Go Forward Annuity Clause/Augmentation Process.

Confidential meeting for registered Band Members only.

 Wednesday, August 6, 2025
5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Serpent River First Nation Community Hall
195 Village Road, Cutler, Ontario
Dinner will be provided.

 Join the Zoom meeting: bit.ly/36LTrzF
Note: There is no need to create an account or register before joining the meeting.

For more information, contact:
Madelaine O'Neill, Executive Assistant to the Political Office, madelaine.oneill@serpentriverfn.com

office.admin@rhtlf.org www.rht1850.ca [RobinsonHuronTreatyAnnuities1850](https://www.facebook.com/RobinsonHuronTreatyAnnuities1850) [@1850RHTreaty](https://twitter.com/1850RHTreaty)

Q4 2024/25 Financial Statements Available

July

14

Notice to members: Q4 2024/25 financial statements are available.

It can be found in the Members Portal > Finance > 2024/25 > Financial Statements folder. The document is titled "Q4 Financial Report".

Missing Laptop

July 9, 2025
Community Notice

JULY

9

A laptop has gone missing from one of our offices, the police have been notified but we are hopeful it will be returned.

The laptop is equipped with GPS tracking and if returned we will consider the matter dealt with.

If anyone notices a black ThinkPad for sale, please contact: Hiedi Jensen
hiedi.jensen@serpentriverfn.com

Member Update: New Policy Added to the Members Portal

July

15

We're pleased to inform you that the Cost of Living Allowances for Full-Time Post-Secondary Students policy has been added to the Members Portal.

It is located in the folder Members Information > Policy and Procedures > Education > Cost of Living Allowances. The document is titled "Cost of Living Allowances for Full Time Post Secondary Students."

Bear Wise Notice

Attention SRFN Community Members

A bear has recently been spotted near the SRFN Band Office area. For your safety and the safety of our wildlife, please review and follow these Bear Wise tips. You can also head to bearwise.org for more information and safety tips.

Six At-Home BearWise Basics



Never Feed or Approach Bears

Intentionally feeding bears or allowing them to find anything that smells or tastes like food teaches bears to approach homes and people looking for more. Bears will defend themselves if a person gets too close, so don't risk your safety and theirs!



Secure Food, Garbage and Recycling

Food and food odors attract bears, so don't reward them with easily available food, liquids or garbage.



Remove Bird Feeders When Bears Are Active

Birdseed and grains have lots of calories, so they're very attractive to bears. Removing feeders is the best way to avoid creating conflicts with bears.



Never Leave Pet Food Outdoors

Feed pets indoors when possible. If you must feed pets outside, feed in single portions and remove food and bowls after feeding. Store pet food where bears can't see or smell it.



Clean & Store Grills

Clean grills after each use and make sure that all grease, fat and food particles are removed. Store clean grills and smokers in a secure area that keeps bears out.



Alert Neighbors to Bear Activity

See bears in the area or evidence of bear activity? Tell your neighbors and share information on how to prevent conflicts with bears. Bears have adapted to living near people; now it's up to us to adapt to living near bears.

Black bear is a species; common colors include black, brown and cinnamon.



Be BearWise
OUTDOORS

Six Outdoor BearWise Basics



Stay Alert & Stay Together

Pay attention to your surroundings and stay together. Walk, hike, jog, or cycle with others when possible. Keep kids within sight and close by. Leave earbuds at home and make noise periodically so bears can avoid you.



Leave No Trash or Food Scraps

Double bag your food when hiking and pack out all food and trash. Don't burn food scraps or trash in your fire ring or grill. *Leaving scraps, wrappers, or even "harmless" items like apple cores teaches bears to associate trails and campsites with food.*



Keep Dogs Leashed

Letting dogs chase or bark at bears is asking for trouble; don't force a bear to defend itself. Keep your dogs leashed at all times or leave them at home.



Camp Safely

Set up camp away from dense cover and natural food sources. Cook as far from your tent as possible. **Do not store food, trash, clothes worn when cooking, or toiletries in your tent.** Store in approved bear-resistant containers OR out of sight in locked vehicle OR suspended at least 10 feet above the ground and 10 feet from any part of the tree. *Local regulations vary.*



Know What To Do If You See a Black Bear

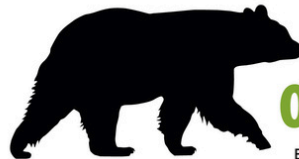
If you see a bear before it notices you, don't approach. Stand still, enjoy, then quietly move away. If a bear sees you, back away slowly. Never run; running may trigger a chase response. If a bear approaches, hold your ground, wave your arms and yell "Hey Bear" until it leaves. Stay with your group. If it keeps approaching, use bear spray. If a black bear makes contact with you, do NOT play dead; fight back aggressively.



Carry Bear Spray & Know How To Use It

Bear spray is proven to be the easiest and most effective way to deter a bear that threatens you. It doesn't work like bug repellent, so never spray your tent, campsite or belongings.

Black bear is a species; common colors include black, brown and cinnamon.



BearWise Outdoor Safety Tips

Black bears are seldom aggressive and rarely injure people. Follow these BearWise tips to avoid encounters.

Camping

- Keep a clean camp.
- Don't burn food scraps or trash in your fire ring or grill.
- Do not store food, trash, clothes worn when cooking, or toiletries in your tent. Store in approved bear-resistant containers OR out of sight in a locked vehicle OR suspended at least 10 feet above the ground and 10 feet from any part of the tree. *Local storage regulations vary.*
- Cook downwind and as far from your tent as possible.
- Set up backcountry camps away from dense cover and natural food sources.



Precautions for Cycling, Jogging

If you travel quickly or quietly, you can easily surprise bears. Stay alert; music and phones are distracting. Be aware of your surroundings; make noise periodically.

Hiking, Walking

- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Try not to hike alone.
- Keep kids within sight and close by.
- Make noise periodically so bears in the area can avoid you.
- Keep dogs leashed at all times, or leave them at home. Don't force a bear to defend itself.
- Double bag your food and pack out all food and trash. *Leaving scraps, wrappers or "harmless" items like apple cores teaches bears to associate trails and campsites with food.*

Fishing, Hunting

- You are more likely to encounter bears when moving quietly and traveling early and late day when bears are most active.
- Follow tips for hiking and camping safely.
- Know that carcasses, gut piles, and bait may attract bears.
- If a bear beats you to your catch or kill, don't try to reclaim it; leave the area when it is safe to do so.



Carry Bear Spray & Know How To Use It

Keep bear spray accessible; it's proven to be the easiest and most effective way to deter a bear that threatens you. It doesn't work like bug repellent, so never spray your tent, campsite or belongings.

If You Encounter a Black Bear

- If you see a bear before it notices you, don't approach. Stand still, enjoy the moment, then quietly move away.
- If a bear sees you, back away slowly. Never run; running may trigger a chase response.
- If a bear approaches, hold your ground, wave your arms and yell "Hey Bear" until it leaves. Always stay with your group. If the bear keeps approaching, use bear spray.
- If a black bear makes contact with you, do NOT play dead; fight back aggressively.

Black bear is a species; colors include black, brown and cinnamon.





Serpent River First Nation and Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board Partner to deliver Outdoor Indigenous Education Program

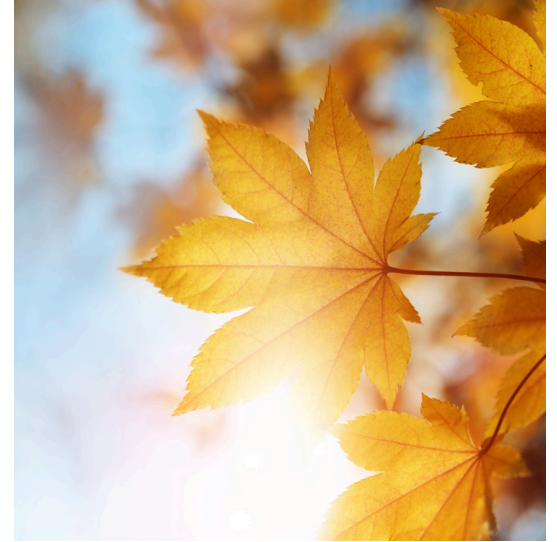
We are excited to announce a new and meaningful partnership between Serpent River First Nation and the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board (HSCDSB) that will bring Indigenous traditional teachings and land-based learning directly to Our Lady of Lourdes students in Grades 5 and 6.

Starting this school year, students will spend two days each week learning outdoors, engaging in hands-on, land-based activities guided by community Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and educators. This unique learning experience will provide space for youth to experience the Ontario curriculum in an outdoor setting and enrich the students with Anishnaabe knowledge.

Phase one of building the outdoor education program at the former Rockhaven school is modeled after the successful St. Kateri Outdoor Learning Centre and Holy Cross program in Sault Ste. Marie.

In 2023, Serpent River First Nation acquired the former Rockhaven school in Serpent River, Ontario with the long-term vision of developing a land-based Anishinaabe education program. In June 2025, students enrolled at HSCDSB schools in Elliot Lake participated in a “try it” day. After the “try it” day, students and their families were invited to register for class. The program has its own teacher, classroom space and cultural resource worker.

For more information on the program, please contact Hillary Trudeau, Director of Education



SRFN Limited Partnerships



Serpent River First Nation Limited Partnership (SRFN LP), was created in April 2023. The SRFN LP provides corporate oversight and direction for subsidiary revenue generation businesses owned and operated by Serpent River First Nation, including property management and retail operations at *the Serpent River Trading Post*, *the Serpent River Gas Bar* and *Agawa Crafts*. SRFN LP is governed by a Board of Directors composed of community members, including Earl Commanda, John Brousseau, Firman Latimer, Zane Johnston, Germaine Elliot, and Wilma-Lee Johnston.

Serpent River First Nation Gas Bar recently established a partnership with Canco, which allowed them to undertake a significant renovation of the store. Renovations were completed in late May 2025. With the upgrades within the establishment, they are now able to offer a much wider selection of goods for your convenience. These changes will greatly enhance your shopping experience at our gas bar. Canco SRFN Gas Bar invites you to visit soon and see the improvements for yourselves.



Paving of entrances and parking lots at Serpent River First Nation Trading Post, Canco Serpent River Gas Bar, and Business Centres began in early July. This addresses long-standing road surface issues for the community, tenants, and travelers. SRFN LP prioritized this, securing a quote from Beamish Construction, approved by the board. This initiative will improve traffic flow, extend pump life, and enhance safety.

SRFN Limited Partnership secured FEDNOR funding for a five-year strategic plan, selecting KJCO in late June 2025 based on their deliverables. These include business plans, tourism experiences, and a **website** for SRFN LP, due November 2025, enabling future **e-commerce** for SRFN and Agawa Trading Post to expand market reach. **Community engagement** is crucial for strategic planning, with sessions and interviews prioritizing local residents, surrounding communities, and partners to identify needs and growth opportunities. SRFN will host a booth at the Pow Wow on August 9, 2025, with further engagements to be announced. This initiative aims to boost business promotion, create jobs, and attract tourism.

SRFN Limited Partnerships Cont'd

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Serpent River First Nation Trading Post has seen a significant increase in client interest for authentic handmade crafts, including leatherwork, beadwork, quillwork, birch bark creations, carvings, hand drums, and paintings. In response, SRFN has expanded its inventory of pieces from talented Indigenous and local crafters and artists. SRFN is continuously seeking to acquire unique handmade items and encourages all interested crafters to reach out to generalmanager@srfnedc.com.



Agawa Trading Post, this rest stop is located on Highway 17 along the shores of Lake Superior. Where you will find a gas station, convenience store, café, and two beautiful gift shops all in one location. SRFN Limited Partnership received **funding for branding and marketing exercises**. Agawa Trading Post's new logo signifies its partnership with Serpent River, incorporating the serpent within their design as well as their original Mishipeshu.

The meaning behind the Serpent River and Agawa Trading Post brand. The Serpent River and Agawa Trading Posts' logos feature Mishipeshu and Thunderbird, symbolizing connection to community and history. Mishipeshu protects water and safe passage, while Thunderbird brings life-giving rain and earth-renewing fire. These balanced protectors represent harmony. The logos, inspired by historic symbols, show these separate but joined beings, encircled by a sun and beaded snake representing Serpent River First Nation.

A Message from SRFN Daycare

Aanii;

It's been a busy time at Day Care. The children had their graduation on June 11, 2025. Congratulations to all our graduates! Chi-Miigwetch to the staff for all their hard work in preparation for this event, from washing and ironing gowns, making hats to decorating the hall. Miigwetch to our cooks Kim and Ian who made a delicious meal for all of us to enjoy. A special shout out to all the parents, grandparents, aunties, and uncles who came to celebrate with us. We hope you all enjoyed yourselves.



We'd like to take this time to say "baa maa pii" to the children and their families who will no longer be coming to the day care. We thank you for all your support, generosity, and laughter, and we hope you come back to visit us!

The children and staff celebrated our dads for Father's Day. We enjoyed a BBQ lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs and pasta salad. Miigwetch to all who came and celebrated.



On July 3, 2025, the children, parents/guardians, and staff went Strawberry picking with the Elder's from Geka as well as some community Elder's. It was a lot of fun watching the children picking their berries to take home, (mind you some ate more than they picked). The Elder's enjoyed being with the children and we had some frozen yogurt to help cool us down. Miigwetch to everyone who came to the day care afterwards to have lunch with us.

The Day Care was closed from July 16-18, 2025. The staff participated in the annual All Nations Early Childhood Education Conference held in Sudbury and Manitoulin Island.

On August 6, 2025, the day care will be taking the children on another field trip to Inspired Tots in Espanola. We have never been there before, and it looks like it's going to be a lot of fun with some messy activities to enjoy.

Just a reminder to parents who will be leaving us, to fill out your withdrawal forms when you know the date of your child's last day with us.

Elder's Tea, Parent Luncheons and Bingo will resume in September; teas and luncheons rotate on a monthly basis, look for flyers!

Until next time, everyone have a wonderful and safe summer.

-Day Care Staff



CDWAI Delivering on Our Priorities Together

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Under the Community Development Wrap-around Initiative (CDWAI), Serpent River First Nation identified six key areas to strengthen our community:

1. Water
2. Housing
3. Economic Development
4. Long-Term Care
5. Financial Management
6. IT and Cyber Security

These priorities reflect Chief and Council's strategic vision and the areas where capacity building will make the greatest impact for our members. Since 2022, we've made significant progress in each area—with more to come as we continue to grow together.

What is CDWAI?

The Community Development Wrap-around Initiative (CDWAI) is a five-year program supporting First Nations across Canada in building capacity and achieving community-led goals. Serpent River First Nation was one of 22 Nations selected—and #1 in total funding secured, including funds leveraged from other departments.

Through CDWAI, we're making real progress in key priority areas like Water, Housing, Economic Development, Long-Term Care, Financial Management, and Cyber Security.

Priorities under CDWAI

(Community Development Wrap-Around Initiative)



FINANCIAL
MANAGEMENT



IT AND
CYBER SECURITY



LONG-TERM
CARE



HOUSING



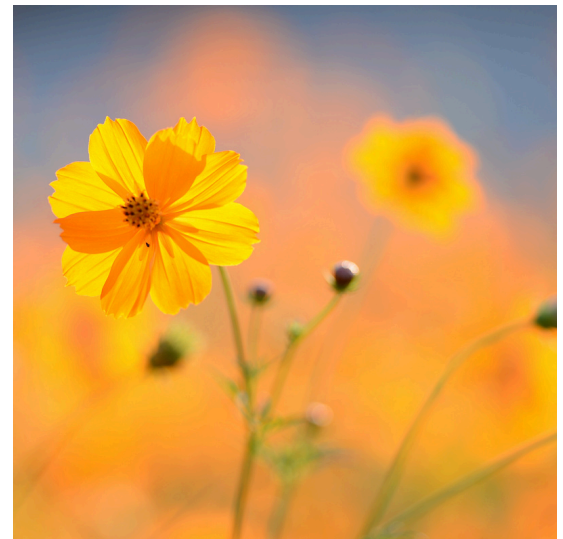
WATER



ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



Serpent River First Nation Community Development Wrap-around Initiative Report - April 2025
serpentrivern.com



What is CDWAI?

(Community Development Wrap-Around Initiative)

A 5-year national program supporting First Nations in building capacity and achieving community-driven goals.

Serpent River First Nation is proud to be a leader among 22 participating Nations, driving progress in six key priority areas.



Serpent River First Nation Community Development Wrap-around Initiative Report - April 2025
serpentrivern.com



CDWAI Delivering on Our Priorities Together Cont'd

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1. Water

Delivering on our Priorities: Water

We're proud to share that Serpent River First Nation was named the Winner of the 2024 Water Taste Challenge by the Aboriginal Water and Wastewater Association of Ontario (AWWAO). This recognition celebrates the excellent quality of our water and ongoing commitment to community health.

DELIVERING ON OUR PRIORITIES



Water



Winner of the 2024 Water Taste Challenge
Awarded by the Aboriginal Water and Wastewater Association of Ontario (AWWAO) for excellence in water quality at the SRFN Water Treatment Plant.


Serpent River First Nation Community Development Wrap-around Initiative Report - April 2025
serpentrivern.com

2. Housing


Delivering on our Priorities: Housing

In 2023–24, we secured \$7.7 million+ for housing construction—bringing 7 new duplexes and two 5-plexes to our community, with support from CMHC and ISC. This investment helps ensure our members have access to safe, comfortable homes.


DELIVERING ON OUR PRIORITIES



Housing



\$7.7M+ secured for housing construction in 2023–24
Including 7 duplexes and two 5-plex buildings, supported through CMHC and ISC funding.

Serpent River First Nation Community Development Wrap-around Initiative Report - April 2025
serpentrivern.com

3. Long Term Care

Delivering on our Priorities: Long Term Care

We've secured land and begun design work for a new 16-bed Long Term Care Facility, including plans for a micro-home subdivision for Elders on Walkhouse Bay Road. This project supports aging with dignity, close to home.

DELIVERING ON OUR PRIORITIES



Long-Term Care Initiative



Land secured & design underway for a Long Term Care Facility
Project manager hired and micro-home subdivision for Elders planned on Walkhouse Bay Road.

Serpent River First Nation Community Development Wrap-around Initiative Report - April 2025
serpentrivern.com



CDWAI Delivering on Our Priorities Together Cont'd

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4. Economic Development

Delivering on our Priorities: Economic Development

Our Economic Development Strategy is underway! We've secured funding, hired an Economic Development Officer, and completed a feasibility study for the Trading Post & Gas Bar to boost local business opportunities.

5. Financial Management

Delivering on our Priorities: Financial Management with a Financial Project Manager and Consultant in place, we've strengthened our financial practices, ensuring audits are timely, budgets are effective, and member services run smoothly. Supported by BDO, we're building financial resilience.

6. IT and Cyber Security

Delivering on our Priorities: IT & Cyber Security We've made major strides in modernizing our IT systems—transitioning to Microsoft 365, upgrading equipment, installing firewalls, and providing cybersecurity training for all staff. We're keeping your data and services safe.

Leading the Way: SRFN Sets the Standard

Serpent River First Nation is proud to lead all 22 First Nations participating in the Community Development Wrap-around Initiative (CDWAI) for total funding secured—including both direct CDWAI funds and additional dollars leveraged from other departments. This achievement reflects our exceptional initiative, leadership, and commitment to building a strong, self-sufficient future for our community.

Learn more about how we're delivering results at: <https://serpentrivern.com/>

DELIVERING ON OUR PRIORITIES



Economic Development



Economic Development Strategy initiated
Funding secured, EDO hired, and feasibility study of Trading Post & Gas Bar completed.

 Serpent River First Nation Community Development Wrap-around Initiative Report - April 2025
serpentrivern.com

DELIVERING ON OUR PRIORITIES




Financial Management




Financial Project Manager & Consultant hired
Developed and implemented a financial improvement plan with audit support from BDO.

 Serpent River First Nation Community Development Wrap-around Initiative Report - April 2025
serpentrivern.com


DELIVERING ON OUR PRIORITIES



CDWAI Success



SRFN secured among the highest levels of funding through CDWAI
Including both direct CDWAI funding and additional dollars leveraged from other departments—demonstrating exceptional initiative and leadership.

 Serpent River First Nation Community Development Wrap-around Initiative Report - April 2025
serpentrivern.com

2025 Career Fair

We hosted our own Career Fair, welcoming community members to explore career paths and services.

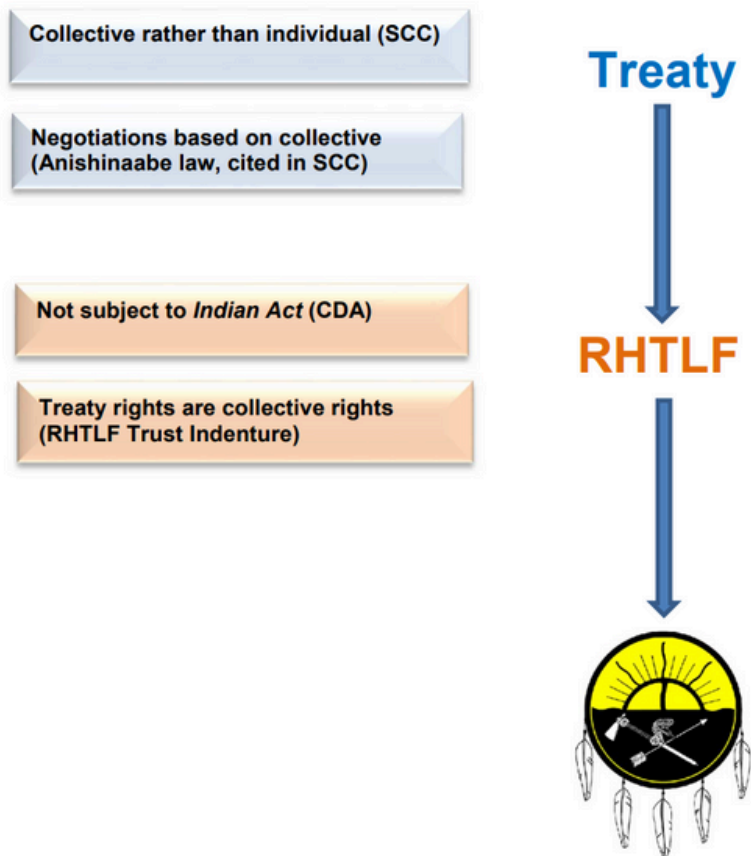
Special thanks to Jennifer Prevost, our ISETP Coordinator, for representing us.



For more info on training or job support, contact Jennifer at jennifer.prevost@serpentrivernfn.com

Robinson Huron Treaty Settlement Update

Report to Members – 1-Page Summary



Rights are of the collective rather than individual (SCC)	Band Councils owe duty to: - Band as a whole - on- and off- reserve members - those adopted into or entitled to be on the band list	Elders: Promise to the Creator to look after the land. First Treaties with the animals
Trust Law: Band Councils receive funds as fiduciaries – obligations owed to Serpent River First Nations members, current members, seven generations	Band Councils have a duty to consult with members	Anishinaabe law: Majority of funds to be designated for collective use, but allocated in specific ways for improving, sustaining and enabling individual member wellbeing and wellbeing of families
Fiduciaries are not permitted to delegate decisions	Personal liability if in breach of fiduciary duties	Anishinaabe Law: Modes PCD to give individuals
		Actuarial Analysis: A 30% PCD leaves insufficient funds for programs

Robinson Huron Treaty Settlement Update

Cont'd

Report to Members – 5-Page Summary

Treaty

**Negotiations based on collective
(Elder, Anishinaabe law, cited in SCC)**

The meetings between William Benjamin Robinson and the Huron First Nations resulted in the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850. Treaty negotiations were done in ceremony in which the Chiefs asked for their ancestors' guidance. Further in keeping with tradition, the leaders discussed the topics beforehand with their communities with the wood present. They then brought the wood by canoe to the treaty-making ceremony and placed on the council fire, thereby bringing the people from the community to the ceremony in spirit (Knowledge Keeper).

Pursuant to the Robinson Huron Treaty, the Annuity was to be delivered to "the Chiefs and their Tribes". The Chiefs would determine what it would be used for. From about 1850 to 1854, the Crown paid the Annuity to each Chief of the RHT First Nations, and the Chiefs would use it for the benefit of the collective and individual members. In about 1854, the Crown illegally ceased paying the Annuity to the Chiefs and instead began to pay the Annuity directly to members. Today, the Annuity remains at \$4 per person (Supreme Court of Canada).

**Collective rather than individual
(Anishinaabe Law and SCC)**

The rights under the Robinson Huron Treaty are those of the collective, not individuals (Supreme Court of Canada).

Treaty rights are interpreted by the treaty wording taken against the treaty's historical and cultural backdrop (Supreme Court of Canada).

The majority of the Settlement Amount should be designated for collective use, but allocated in specific ways for the purpose of improving, sustaining, and enabling individual community member wellbeing and the well-being of families (Anishinaabe Law).

A modest per capita distribution is important to give individuals agency (Anishinaabe Law).

Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund

The Compensation Distribution Agreement (the "**CDA**") provides that the settlement funds are not subject to the *Indian Act*:

Not subject to *Indian Act* (CDA)

... [t]he entitlement to annuities and the Compensation Disbursement Agreement should be governed by our own Anishinabek customs, laws and history, as well as the spirit and intent of the Treaty, and not by the *Indian Act* or Indian Affairs policies, treaty pay-lists or membership lists; ...

The Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund Trust Indenture provides that Treaty rights are collective rights:

**Treaty rights are collective rights
(CDA, RHTLF Trust Indenture)**

... [t]he entitlement to annuities under the Robinson Huron Treaty, are treaty rights; as such, they are not individual rights, they are collective rights, which belong to the collectivity or collectivities that entered into that Treaty, including

Robinson Huron Treaty Settlement Update

Cont'd

the descendants of members of that collectivity or those collectivities; . . .
(preamble)

Serpent River First Nation



Canadian Law

Law specific to the RHT by the highest court

The Supreme Court of Canada provided that the rights under the Treaty are those of the collective, not individuals. The Court unanimously rejected the “two annuities” interpretation of the Treaty, stating that this interpretation is “strained and illogical”. The Supreme Court of Canada concluded there is only a single annuity payable to the “Chiefs and their tribes” (with no formal right of individual Band Members to demand payment from the Crown) . . .

Rights are of the collective rather than individual (SCC)

The Supreme Court of Canada also held that treaty rights are interpreted by the treaty wording taken against the treaty’s historical and cultural backdrop.

As Canada’s highest court and final court of appeal, the Supreme Court’s decision conclusively resolves the legally enforceable proper interpretation of the Treaty. Any future litigation involving the Treaty would need to follow the Supreme Court’s interpretation of it. Given that the Supreme Court’s decision is the most authoritative source of law on the proper interpretation of the Treaty, that makes it clearly relevant under the circumstances.

Trust Law and the Law of Fiduciaries

Council has received the settlement funds in a fiduciary capacity. A fiduciary duty is the highest standard of care of one person towards another. Council owes fiduciary duties in connection with their dealings with the settlement funds, and these duties may be reviewed by a Court. If Council falls short of their fiduciary duties, they may be sued personally.

Trust Law: Band Councils receive funds as a fiduciary – obligations owed to Serpent River First Nations members, current members, seven generations

Personal liability if in breach of fiduciary duties

Robinson Huron Treaty Settlement Update

Cont'd

Fiduciaries can consult with and take advice from relevant stakeholders over how they should exercise a power of distribution. However, the ultimate decision reached must be the decision of the fiduciaries because they cannot exercise a power or discretion under the instructions of another person.

Fiduciaries are not permitted to delegate decisions

According to Anishinaabe law, decisions are made with a view of seven generations.

Duties of Elected Band Councils

Band Councils “are in a position of trust relative to the interests of the Band generally, the Band’s assets, and the members of the Band.” As such, Band Councils have enforceable fiduciary obligations to the members of the First Nation and to the general interests of the Band. Fiduciary obligations are owed to and includes:

Band Councils owe duty to:
- Band as a whole
- on- and off- reserve members
- those adopted into or entitled to be on the band list

- (a) [t]he Aboriginal group as a whole, and not to any particular individuals; and to
- (b) both on-reserve and off-reserve members; and to
- (c) individuals adopted into or entitled to be entered, but not yet entered, on the band list.

What does it mean to owe duties to the Band? According to the Federal Court,

...it does not follow that because an Indian band is not a legal entity, rights accruing to the band are the rights of its members or their descendants in their individual capacities. The definition of “band” [in the *Indian Act*] uses the term “in common” in relation to the interest that the members of the band have in the reserve. The term “in common” connotes a communal, as opposed to a private, interest in the reserve, by the members of the band. **In other words, an individual member of a band has an interest in association with, but not independent of, the interest of the other members of the band.**

Band Councils for First Nations with a custom of consultation on matters impacting the First Nation as a whole are obligated to conduct meaningful consultation with band members before acting, and such customs may be enforceable by the courts.

Band Councils have a duty to consult with members

Robinson Huron Treaty Settlement Update

Cont'd

Anishinaabe Law

Elders: Promise to the Creator to look after the land. First Treaties with the animals

When the Native Peoples were lowered down from the clouds, the animals were already here. The animals had responsibilities to the ecosystem and it was up to them to help the Native Peoples understand how they could be of assistance in caring for the land, the deer, the moose, the fish, the flora, the fauna, the water, and the air. Thus were borne the first treaties, being the treaties with the animals. The second treaties were nation-to-nation treaties between sovereign First Nations related to the use of land, hunting and fishing. The third treaties were those made with the Crown.

Anishinaabe law: Majority of funds be designated for collective use, but allocated in specific ways for improving, sustaining and enabling individual member wellbeing and wellbeing of families

Creation is a complex of exchange relationships in which all are interdependent participants and a fundamental orientation to kindness can be best understood as a means of navigating that complex in a way that honours all.

Humans are not distinct from the Earth, but rather are as much a part of it as are bees, bears, and mountains. In this way, we are all part of one Earth family:

gidakiiminaan. And indeed, Anishinaabeg call the sun, grandfather; the moon, grandmother; animals, our elder brothers, and so on. That is, there is a logic to Creation's pattern of gift exchange (or more simply, of sharing). Each of us is given a kinship location which establishes specific gift exchange responsibilities to our relatives. In this way, we are all related and the way that we practise our fundamental responsibility to offer up the gifts we carry (what elders often call "original instructions") is a function of that relatedness.

In *anishinaabemowin*, the same word is used to identify a great-grandparent and a great-grandchild: *aanikoobijigewin* or *n'donkoobitigan*, depending on the regional use of Anishinaabemowin. The span between these relations is seven generations. There is also a deeper, philosophical sense in which the term *aanikoobijigewin* is used: to describe our connection all the way back through time to our first ancestor. Taken together, these two meanings emphasize very long-term decision-making. We consider what our ancestors wanted for us and why, and what the future generations will need, and how those needs will be impacted by the decisions we're making today. Effective self-governance on distributive matters regards that we think well past ourselves not only spatially and across other identity groups, but also temporally.

It is plain from an examination of Anishinaabe principles a significant individual payout would likely be inconsistent with the animating spirit of Anishinaabe law, which is about (1) effectively empowering and coordinating the exchange of gifts between community members, and (2) ensuring that community members are taught to be self-governing at different scales of relationality, so that they know how to engage in gift exchange appropriately. A proportionately significant per capita distribution of the Settlement Agreement monies serves neither of these ends, and in fact, may undermine them by privileging the satisfaction of individual preferences over relational commitments central to Anishinaabe law.

Robinson Huron Treaty Settlement Update

Cont'd

An Analysis of Anishinaabe Law Suggests, rather, that the Majority of the Funds should be Designated for Collective Use, but should be Allocated in Specific Ways for the Purpose of Improving, Sustaining, and Enabling Individual Community Member Wellbeing and the Well-being of Families. Individuals and families have unique gifts and unique needs. This means that the majority of the funds should not be allocated to cost-intensive projects that serve the interests of only narrow segments of the community.

Anishinaabe law: Modest PCD to give individuals agency

Although Anishinaabe law does not support a proportionately significant per capita payout, it does strongly support a modest one. One of the greatest gifts individuals possess is their unique agency, which they should not have to justify to anyone. A modest individual

payout, without attached conditions, might reasonably serve to symbolically recognize this fact, while carefully avoiding the problem of privileging individual interests over relational ones.

Actuarial Analysis: A 30% PCD leaves insufficient funds for programs

In order to determine what constitutes a "modest" per capita distribution, Council has retained actuaries who specialize this type of work. We understand that a "modest" per capita distribution would be somewhere between 10% - 30% of the settlement funds, with 30%

being a stretch because it compromises the ability to deliver future programs. The \$125,000 per capita distribution already paid to members constitutes approximately 60% of the settlement funds.

National Truth and Reconciliation Day/ Orange Shirt Day



The SRFN Band Office and Administration acknowledge that the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also known as Orange Shirt Day, will take place on September 30th. We honour and recognize all survivors of residential schools in our community, as well as their families and loved ones.

We'd like to remind our community to take care of each other during this time, especially on September 30th, that week, and throughout the month of September as we recognize Orange Shirt Day, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

We understand that discussions on Indigenous history can bring up various emotions and thoughts. We want to emphasize that support is available should you need it. Here are some helplines and resources:

- **Hope for Wellness Help Line:** Available 24/7 for emotional support and crisis intervention at 1-855-242-3310.
- **Talk Suicide Canada:** Available 24/7 at 1-833-456-4566.
- **Wellness Together Canada:** For adults, call 1-866-585-0045 or text WELLNESS to 741741. For youth, call 1-888-668-6810 or text 686868.
- **First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness Helpline:** Call 1-855-242-3310.
- **National Suicide Prevention Line:** Call 1-833-456-4566.
- **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Crisis Line:** Call 1-844-413-6649.
- **Mental health crisis hotline for all Northern community members:** Dial 988.
- **The National Indian Residential School Crisis Line:** Call 1-866-925-4419.
- **For youth and young adults (age 5-29):** Call 1-800-668-6868 or text CONNECT to 686868.
- We also encourage you to explore coping strategies through the "We Matter" campaign's videos, which offer valuable insights and support, specifically the We Matter Videos on Coping Strategies.at:
<https://wemattercampaign.org/campaigns/videos>

Please look out for one another, and let's continue supporting one another today and every day. Be compassionate. Listen. Be patient. Be kind. Be there for one another.

Miigwetch
-SRFN Band Office and Administration

A Message from the Health Department

Aaniin, Boozhoo!

As we welcome the warm days of August, we hope everyone is enjoying the summer season in good health and spirit. This month, we're focusing on **wellness, connection, and community care**. Here are some updates and reminders from your Community Health Team.

After many years of dedicated service, **Dr. Wannan** has officially retired. We are incredibly grateful for the care and commitment he have shown to our community and wish him all the best in their well-deserved retirement.

We are pleased to welcome **Dr. Bertrand** to our team. Dr. Bertrand brings a wealth of experience and a compassionate approach to patient care. We are confident that you will find her to be a valuable addition to our clinic. Dr. Bertrand will be focusing on taking over the majority of Dr. Wannan's clients and after those are on-boarded she will begin the work of seeing our other community members who do not have a primary care provider.

Currently, Richard SanCartier is our Nurse Practitioner who has taken on a number of Dr. Wannan's clients as well as a number of existing clients he had in the community which makes for a heavy client case load.

We have recently been successful in recruiting a new Community Health Nurse to the team. Lindsay will be working in the clinic 3 days a week.

As our community continues to grow, we are seeing an increase in clients returning to the area and seeking care. While we are excited to welcome new and returning clients, we are currently experiencing some staffing shortages. This may result in longer wait times for appointments.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work diligently to recruit and train additional staff to meet the needs of our community. Our commitment to providing high-quality care remains unchanged, and we are doing everything we can to ensure a smooth transition during this time.

Thank you for your continued trust and support.

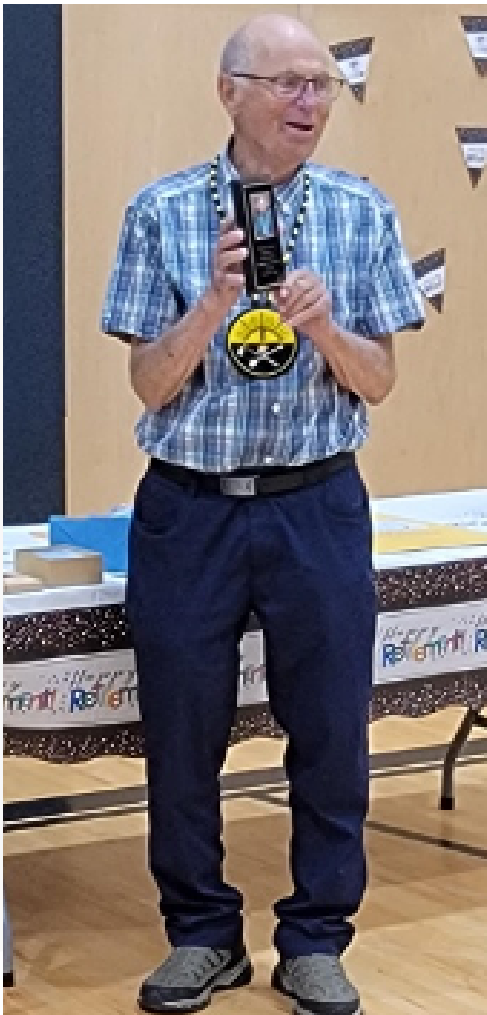
Leila Macumber, Health Director

Honouring a Legacy of Care: Dr. Wannan Retires After Over 40 Years of Service



On July 3, 2025, the Serpent River First Nation community gathered to celebrate and honor the remarkable career of Dr. Wannan, who has faithfully served as the community's physician for over four decades. His retirement marks the end of an era defined by compassion, dedication, and deep-rooted relationships with generations of families.

Dr. Wannan has been more than a healthcare provider—he has been a trusted friend, a steady presence, and a cherished member of the Serpent River First Nation family. His unwavering commitment to the well-being of community members has left an indelible mark on countless lives.



Dr. Wannan receiving his Medallion and his Plaque for the Clinic Room honour.



Dr. Wannan and his family

Community members wishing Dr. Wannan best wishes.



Honouring a Legacy of Care: Dr. Wannan Retires After Over 40 Years of Service

To commemorate his retirement, the community hosted a heartfelt lunch in his honor. Dr. Wannan and his family were warmly welcomed and celebrated with speeches, gifts, and ceremony. Among the many tokens of appreciation, he was presented with a healing star blanket, gifted in a traditional ceremony, symbolizing respect, healing, and gratitude. In a lasting tribute, the Kenabutch Health Center renamed one of its clinic rooms the Dr. Wannan Clinic Room, ensuring his legacy continues to inspire future generations of caregivers. He was also presented with a medallion of the Serpent River First Nation, a symbol of honor and belonging.

Chief Wilma Lee Johnston expressed the community's deep appreciation, thanking Dr. Wannan for his decades of service and wishing him a joyful and restful retirement. Leila Macumber, Health Director, shared heartfelt words and a touching reflection on Dr. Wannan's journey and contributions throughout his years in Serpent River.

The event was a moving celebration of a life dedicated to healing and service. We extend our deepest gratitude to Dr. Wannan for his extraordinary commitment and wish him all the best in this new chapter of life.



Dr Wannan, with Chief Johnston (r), Elaine Johnston (Former SJGH Board Chair) (l) Lisa Reid, former Health Director, and Leila Macumber, Health Director



Chief presenting Dr. Wannan with gifts



Dr. Wannan with Clinic Health Staff



Dr. Barry Wannan with his son, Dr. Andrew Wannan, Mayor of Elliot Lake, and Chief Wilma Lee Johnston



SWAN (Skin Wellness Associate Nurse) Program

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For practical nurses and diploma RNs who aspire to become respected nurse leaders and integral members of their organization's wound, ostomy, and continence leadership team, the CNA-accredited Skin Wellness Associate Nurse (SWAN) Program is the only program in Canada that offers: competency and evidence-informed advanced knowledge in wound, ostomy and continence management; confidence to transfer that knowledge into practice; recognition and respect for your competencies through the nationally recognized SWAN designation; and continuous learning and lifelong support through mentorship and collaboration in a SWAN Nurse Specialized in Wound, Ostomy and Continence (NSWOC) team.

SWAN's are uniquely recognized for their advanced knowledge and their contributions as wound, ostomy and continence nurse champions in their workplaces and communities across Canada.

We are proud to announce that one of our own Community Health Nurses, Ashley Middaugh has completed the SWAN program and graduated with flying colours. Ashley committed to completing the program and did so while continuing to work and raise her family. Miigwetch for your dedication to SRFN.

King Charles III Coronation Medal

We are delighted to share the news that our Nurse Practitioner Richard San-Cartier was selected to receive the prestigious King Charles III's Coronation Medal for community service. This serves as recognition of his outstanding contributions to the Heart & Stroke Foundation and his unwavering commitment to heart and brain health in Canada.



King Charles III's Coronation Medal is a distinguished Canadian commemorative medal created to mark His Majesty King Charles III's coronation on May 6, 2023. This medal is a symbol of honour and gratitude, awarded to individuals who have made significant contributions to Canada, their province, territory, region, or community.

The King Charles III Coronation Medal, a circular silver medal bearing the effigy of His Majesty King Charles III, symbolizes the unity and inclusivity of all Canadians. It is a testament to your exceptional service and commitment to advancing heart and brain health across our nation.

We are so proud of Richard for receiving this achievement!! You deserve it!!

Update on the Maamwesying Ontario Health Team

In 2019, Ontario Health Teams (OHT's) were introduced as a way of better connecting a fragmented system. Since then, 54 teams have been approved and are seeing successes, including more efficient hospital-to-home transitions, strengthened primary care foundations, improved digital health and virtual care access, better data and analytics and more meaningful partnerships and engagement with clients, families and caregivers.



On October 14th, 2022 the Maamwesying Ontario Health Team (MOHT) was announced. The Maamwesying Ontario Health Team's focus is to ensure that Indigenous Health remains in Indigenous Hands. As an organization, Maamwesying North Shore Community Health Services Inc. was specifically created to address the equity and access issues that were being experienced by our community members through the mainstream healthcare system. The Maamwesying Ontario Health Team approach to improving population health for our identified patient population follows the Model of Wholistic Health and Well- Being.

Projects and Deliverables

1. Transitions in Care- Kaizen Events

The Transitions in Care Initiative aims to improve healthcare experiences and outcomes for Indigenous populations by fostering culturally safe and seamless transitions across care settings. The initiative prioritizes equity-focused approaches, such as community engagement in care planning, and supports access to services through enhanced Indigenous System Navigation and self-identification processes. By addressing systemic barriers and improving service integration, the initiative advances patient-centered care while strengthening collaboration among healthcare partners.



- Facilitated over 37 hours of collaboration with Transitions in Care Working Groups, including First Nations, hospital, and Indigenous-led healthcare partners, to co-design and implement the Self-Identification (Self-ID) process across North East Ontario hospital sites.
- Distributed Self-ID training and resource manuals to seven acute care hospital partners, with the online version accessed over 320 times since July 2024.
- Integrated the co-designed Self-ID question into 23 hospital sites connected to the Meditech ONE initiative in North Eastern Ontario.
- Advocated for and supported the expansion of Indigenous System Navigation services, resulting in:
 - One new navigator position in the central MOHT catchment.
 - Funding for a new position to support Northern Communities (Chapleau & Wawa).
 - Pilot projects at two acute care sites introducing Indigenous Patient Navigators in Emergency Departments.

Update on the Maamwesying Ontario Health Team Cont'd

2. Lower Limb Preservation

In the 2024- 2025 fiscal year, the Lower Limb Preservation (LLP) team focused on diabetes and peripheral vascular disease (PVD) prevention by prioritizing project sustainability and effective offloading strategies. By enhancing these key areas, we aim to reduce avoidable, non-traumatic foot ulcers, enhance early screening, improve healing outcomes, and ultimately preserve limb loss for at-risk individuals. These initiatives are designed to create long-term, sustainable solutions for better patient care and quality of life.



3. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)/Congestive Heart Failure (CHF)

In the 2024-25 fiscal year the MOHT will be exploring opportunities to partner with Best Care to facilitate the development and implementation of a primary care-based model to address the needs of MOHT community members living with COPD and CHF.

4. Mental Health and Addictions

The MOHT selected Mental Health and Addictions as it's Year 2 Priority Population. Based on the high prevalence of Mental Health and Addictions needs within our First Nation communities, as well as the roll out of the Robinson Huron Treaty annuities, the need to focus on ensuring a coordinated and sustainable Mental Health and Addictions support system is paramount.

Important: Community data for Opioid use, related harms and treatment

The Chiefs of Ontario and the Ontario Drug Policy Research Network (ODPRN) have completed a province-wide study on opioid use. You can use the following link to access the report or you can request a copy be printed for you from the Kenabutch Health Centre.

<https://odprn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Opioid-Use-Among-First-Nations-Annual-Update-2024.pdf>



Health Department: Elders Needs Survey

At the July 8th Chief and Council meeting the Elders Survey results were approved by Chief and Council. Conducting an **Elders Needs Assessment Survey** is important for several reasons, especially in communities, healthcare settings, or family caregiving. Here's why such a survey is valuable:

1. Identify Unmet Needs

- Understand what elders may be lacking in terms of **healthcare, housing, nutrition, transportation, or social support**.
- Helps prioritize services or interventions.

2. Improve Quality of Life

- Tailors programs and services to what elders actually want and need.
- Promotes **independence, dignity, and well-being**.

3. Inform Policy and Planning

- Provides data for **community leaders, healthcare providers, or government agencies** to make informed decisions.
- Supports funding applications or program development.

4. Strengthen Community Support

- Encourages **intergenerational understanding** and **community engagement**.
- Identifies opportunities for **volunteerism, peer support, or cultural activities**.

5. Monitor Changes Over Time

- Repeating the survey periodically helps track changes in needs and effectiveness of services.

The work began with the Elders in April of 2024. We had a nursing student doing a placement with us at the clinic, Tara Linklater, who worked on the skeleton of the survey. The survey was then sent to health and HCC staff for review and additions and in May we began work on reaching out to Elders to form a group to review the survey. The survey was also brought to the Mukwa Dodem for review and members were asked to participate in the focus groups.

We had 3 focus groups between June and July of 2024 and there was an average of 7 Elders in attendance. The focus groups purpose was to review all of the questions that were on the survey as we wanted to make sure we were not asking questions that we should not be. They also looked at the wording of the surveys, number of the questions and types of questions.



Health Department: Elders Needs Survey Cont'd

The decision was made to wait until after the summer to begin the distribution of the survey once things had settled down for both staff and Elders. It was decided that a staff would sit with the Elder when asking them to complete the survey so at the clinic, a staff would take any Elders who were willing to complete the survey into a quiet spot. There was also a new staff who is was a community member who was dedicated to scheduling time and going out into the Elders homes to complete the survey. It was felt the Elders would be more willing to participate and give honest answers if there was trust with the interviewer.

The survey closed on November 14th, 2024.

Results were calculated by two staff in February and March of 2025 and the raw results presented to the Mukwa Dodem in March of 2025

Home and Community Care PSW

Changes are being implemented to the home and community care program to enhance the services our Elders are receiving in the community. A second PSW was hired to provide services specifically to our community Elders during the week. The new PSW is an addition to the current 1 PSW and Homemaker Team. At the beginning of August we will have a new Home and Community Care nurse whose focus will be visiting and providing care to those Elder clients we have in the community. She comes from a home care background and we are very excited to have her on-board.



If you have any questions regarding whether or not you qualify for the Home and Community Care Program you can reach out to Glenda, the Home and Community Care Coordinator at 705-844-2818.



Word Search

Word Search

I	R	D	M	D	E	C	I	R	D	L	I	W	O
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DAGWAAGIN
 SQUIRRELS
 JIDMOONHAG
 WILDRICE
 ORANGESHIRTDAY
 FALL
 MANOOMIN
 AUTUMN
 FIRE
 BOODWEDAA

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/8605246/>



Word Search Answer Key



MANOOMIN
 DAGWAAGIN
 WILDRIGE
 FALL
 BOODWEDAA
 ORANGESHIRTDAY
 FIRE
 AUTUMN
 JIDMOONHAG
 SQUIRRELS

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2025

Stay Connected

Reminder:

- All upcoming events are listed on our Facebook page under the "Events" section
- They are also pinned at the top of our Facebook page on the "Featured" section



Featured

Upcoming events



Tue, May 27 at 4:30 PM and 9 more

Kids Hapkido Martial ...

0 Interested · 1 Going



Wed, May 28 at 4:30 PM and 4 more

Bimose Mamaawi Anis...

9 Interested · 1 Going



Mon, May 26 at 4:30 PM and 5 more

Bimose Mamaawi Anis...

20 Interested · 1 Going



[See all events](#)



Serpent River First Nation
Administrative News and Events



For questions, inquiries, and newsletter submissions
contact: communications@serpentrivernfn.com