

ISSUE #1

MARCH 2019

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IFNA

INDEPENDENT FIRST NATIONS ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER



IFNA Student Housing – 3D front View

NEW STUDENT RESIDENCE IN SIOUX LOOKOUT

In order to address the chronic shortage of boarding housing for students in Sioux Lookout, IFNA will be constructing 2 new residences for occupancy in September 2019. The new residences will house a total of 20 students, each of whom will have a private room that has its own bed, desk, chair, closet, washroom and shower. The common areas of the homes will be used for dining, studying and general leisure.

Each of these homes will be staffed with house parents and support staff by IFNA. This allows the students to experience a home-like atmosphere and sense of belonging while maintaining a high level of supervision and safety. IFNA will be seeking two sets of house

parents from IFNA communities to live on site at the new residences and provide parenting, supervision and mentoring supports for the students. IFNA is also engaged with Sioux Lookout schools to develop after school programs and support for students. This will include opportunities to earn extra credits after classes.

This project has been made possible through the permanent increase in funding for home placement grants. Programs such as Choose Life and Jordan's Principle have also helped to provide additional funding for this project.



At this year's First Nations Housing Conference an exciting announcement was made, the creation of the First Nations Housing Community (FNH Community). The FNH Community, headed by the FNH Working Group of which IFNA is an executive member, was designed to be a resource for First Nations housing professionals throughout Canada by providing tools, knowledge and assets to help improve housing in First Nations Communities. The Community has defined its services as providing:

- Training and Development
- Community Advocacy
- Expert Advice
- Information Sharing
- Member Support
- Research and Communications

This means that First Nations that join the FNH Community will have access to all of these services as well as the collective knowledge of all of the members.

The first year of the FNH Community will consist of collecting information from its members. This will be done in order to ensure that the Community is one that is built by First Nations, for First Nations. In addition, the initial year of research will help to refine the scope of services offered by the FNH Community in an effort to serve its members better.

The FNH Community gained more than 100 members during its launch at the First Nations Housing Conference in February and will continue to grow in the future. More information about the community and how to become a member can be found at firstnationshousingcommunity.com.

WWW.IFNA.CA

FNH CONFERENCE 2019 - MOVING FIRST NATIONS FORWARD



The annual First Nations Housing Conference (FNHC) took place February 26-28, 2019 in Thunder Bay at the Valhalla Inn. 2019 marks the conference's 17th year of bringing information, skills, and mentorship to First Nations Communities in Ontario and across the country. This year's conference brought over 250 delegates and 52 exhibiting organizations from all over Canada.

housing professionals, improving the quality of information that First Nations housing professionals have access to, and the passing on of the skills gained at the conference to younger generations.

Lac Seul and Muskrat Dam were present at FNHC to represent IFNA and its affiliated Communities.

Muskrat Dam was also awarded its 3rd Community Housing Recognition Award, this time for completing two triplexes using Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs). The construction, taking only 9 weeks to complete.

The FNHC is organized by its Working Group, of which IFNA is a member. This year's theme - FWD: was chosen in order to promote the sharing of knowledge between First Nations



FNH Conference 2019

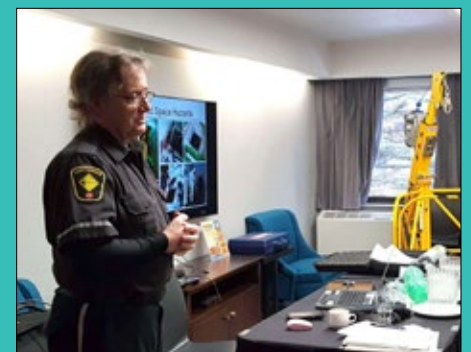
O&M AND WATER OPERATOR TRAINING

On March 19-21 IFNA hosted O&M and Water Operator Training that took place at the Valhalla Inn, in Thunder Bay. Training was provided to water operators from IFNA communities including Lac Seul and Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig.

Water operators participated in a training session called "Water and Wastewater Operator Safety" where they were given Fall Arrest Training, Confined Spaces Training and Safety

Equipment Fitting and Usage Training. In addition to this training IFNA will also be providing a Fall Arrest system to the Communities including Lac Seul, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig, Pikangikum, and Muskrat Dam.

O&M Managers underwent a training session entitled "Project Management & Asset Management Planning Training Workshop". This workshop provided information about many aspects of project management including: Defining Scope and Activity Sequencing, Scheduling, Budgeting and Cost Performance. Additionally, the training included an Asset Management and Planning Toolkit as well as a focus on O&M Budgeting.



HEALTH PROGRAM UPDATE

Rachel Garrick was recently hired for the newly established Health Services Manager position on January 21, 2019. She was formerly the IFNA Community Wellbeing Facilitator and has been working with IFNA since January 2017. Rachel has worked with IFNA on and off throughout the years.

IFNA Health Services worked on and submitted an operational plan after the strategic planning session. This plan did not incorporate the work of the then Health Services Coordinator and First Nations Family Physicians and Family Services (FNFPHS). This operational plan will be updated and re-submitted.

The IFNA Health Services team includes Marion Morris, Mental Wellness Team Coordinator; Lynda Beardy, Diabetes Strategy Coordinator; and Alana Anderson, First Nations Physicians and Family Services.

- Marion Morris has coordinated the Mental Wellness Team for the past two years and has undertaken the coordination of the Crisis Response Services.

- Lynda Beardy, former IFNA Receptionist and FNFPHS Interim Data Clerk, joined the IFNA Health Services Team temporarily through NAN Diabetes funding to coordinate the IFNA Health Summit – Diabetes Gathering and assist with wrapping up the work of the Community Wellbeing Facilitator program.
- Alana Anderson, who has been assisting the IFNA CEO as a consultant for the FNFPHS, has been working collaboratively with the IFNA Health Services Team. We are working on improving the working relationship between FNFPHS and IFNA Health Services.

The IFNA Health Services Team successfully planned and implemented an IFNA Health Summit – Diabetes Gathering on March 5 – 7, 2019. The first IFNA Health Summit that we know of, hopefully, with many more to come. An IFNA Regional Diabetes Strategy will be the outcome of this summit and will be shared with our communities.



Health Program

PIKANGIKUM FIRST COMMUNITY CONNECTED TO GRID VIA WATAYNIKANEYAP POWER



Like many First Nations Communities Pikangikum has relied on diesel generators for its electricity for many years; until recently when they became the first community to connect to the Ontario power grid with the help of the Wataynikaneyap Power Project. The project, spearheaded by 22 First Nations Communities, symbolizes an historic effort to modernize the electricity systems in First Nations. This achievement was marked by a Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony in the Community of Pikangikum where, for the first time, diesel electricity was turned off and the Community entirely connected to the Ontario power grid.

The connection of Pikangikum also signifies an opportunity for the Community. With reliable access to power via the Ontario power grid, Pikangikum can begin to focus on other aspects of their Community and continue to grow. IFNA would like to congratulate Pikangikum and Wataynikaneyap Power on their successful connections and for their future successes in power generation in the future.

NEW IFNA TEAM MEMBERS

There have been a number of new team members, new positions and staff openings at IFNA. We are excited to welcome many new staff members and any new candidates to fill open positions. Below is a summary of recent staff changes:

- We are looking for a new Well Being Worker for our team!
- **CURTIS BINGUIS**
Multi-Purpose Worker
- Started November 20, 2018
- **TANYA TEKAVCIC-NUGENT**
Land Based Worker
- Started October 8, 2018
- **BRIAN LOGAN**
Addictions Education Counsellor
- Started September 8, 2018
- **WALTER MONIAS**
Civil Technologist Intern
- Started November 5, 2018
- **BRADLEY MORRIS**
Justice Coordinator
- Started March 8, 2019
- **CHARLES BROWN**
Education Services Manager
- Start Date April 1, 2019
- **RICHARD CHUKRA**
Business & Economic Development-Advisor
- Returning April 23, 2019

CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL OF OUR
NEW STAFF!

WE LOOK FORWARD
TO WORKING WITH
YOU AT IFNA.

FAMILY PHYSICIANS PROGRAM

The First Nation Family Physicians and Health Services program has been working hard this past 6 months to re-establish working relationships within IFNA, as well as with the communities it provides services to. The Board has been very diligent in getting together frequently to ensure that the FNFPHS is in a better position to support its communities. The Mission of the Family Physicians Program is to provide better health care to our communities by ensuring local control, physician continuity and a collective voice approach.

Currently, the FNFPHS Board consists of four (4) members as appointed by the IFNA Chiefs:

- Roy Fiddler, Muskrat Dam First Nation

- Gabriel Moose, Pikangikum First Nation
- Geoffry McKay, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug
- Darcy Beardy, Muskrat Dam First Nation

Mathew Hoppe, IFNA CEO, is the Interim Program Manager and Alana Anderson is the Program Consultant. Chelsea Gray and Katherine Beardy are acting as Medical Secretaries.

FNFPHS hosted the Community Engagement Gathering in Dryden, ON during the Little Bands Tournament for the IFNA Community Teams. Many IFNA staff came together to make this event a resounding success.

IFNA

- IFNA OFFICES
- IFNA COMMUNITIES

Northwestern
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