

# BEAR FAX

Ki sha Peesim 2012



Missanabie Cree First Nation

[www.missanabiecree.com](http://www.missanabiecree.com)

## Like Tributaries to a River

Across the continent, on the shores of small tributaries,  
in the shadows of sacred mountains,  
on the vast expanse of the prairies,  
or in the safety of the woods,  
prayers are being repeated,  
as they have for thousands of years,  
and common people with uncommon courage  
and the whispers of their ancestors in their ears  
continue their struggles to protect the land and water and trees  
on which their very existence is based.  
And like small tributaries joining together to form a mighty river,  
their force and power grows.  
This river will not be dammed.

-Winona Laduke

## Events/Gatherings:

### AFOA (Aboriginal Financial Officers Association) National Conference

February 12-14, 2012 Saskatoon, SK  
[www.afoa.ca/conference/2012](http://www.afoa.ca/conference/2012)

### Great Moon Gathering - Education conference

February 16 - 17, 2012 Fort Albany, ON  
[www.mushkegowuk.com](http://www.mushkegowuk.com)

### AFN National Justice Forum

February 21-23, 2012 Vancouver, BC  
[www.afn.ca](http://www.afn.ca)

### AFN National Water Conference

March 5-7, 2012 Edmonton, Alberta  
[www.afn.ca](http://www.afn.ca)

## Inside this Issue:

- P. 2: From the Desk of:
- P. 2: Governance Project Update
- P. 4: Community News and Notes
- P. 5: News Items
- P. 6: Events Calendar
- P. 7: Birthday Greetings
- P. 8: Opportunities
- P. 9: Employment Opportunity
- P. 10: Health Notes
- P. 11: Concerning the Earth
- P. 12: MCFN Membership
- P. 13: Contact Information

## From the desk of:

### CULTURAL COORDINATOR

Hello, Everyone,

I had the privilege of sitting at the table with the Regional Elders of the Northeast Superior Regional Chiefs' Forum in January. The Elders from this group who attended were from Missanabie Cree First Nation, Michipicoten First Nation, Chapleau Cree First Nation, Brunswick House First Nation and Pic Mobert First Nation. I attended as an observer but ended up taking notes which was an honour. I enjoyed sitting and talking with them and getting to know our Elders. Traditional Knowledge is a knowledge that is given and received by those who accept it into their lives. I am very thankful that we have Elders in our community and region that can teach us something so that we can continue passing this knowledge on to others.

In last month's newsletter we had put a call out for members to participate in the different working groups that will be brought to Sault Ste. Marie to share their knowledge in developing and creating a Protection Plan for Manitou Mountain, Hunting & Fishing Best Practices and for helping us identify any additional values within the set aside lands. The members that showed an interest and sent in a request to participate have all been included in the workshop. Thank you for the responses and for the support to carry out these initiatives. A report on the workshops will be in the March newsletter.

Isabell Souliere

## Governance Project Update



### MCFN Governance Capacity Development Project

The Governance Coordinating Committee (GCC), with the support of the Project Coordinator, has begun the work of the governance project. The project involves the updating and ratification of the MCFN membership code and the review and ratification of the MCFN election code. The Project is funded through AANDC's Professional and Institutional Development Program.

#### GCC Teleconference Meeting January 24

The Governance Coordinating Committee met by teleconference to continue discussions on the review and updating of the membership code. Although there was no quorum for this meeting, those attending made a number of suggestions that were brought to the next meeting on February 8. Discussions involved the issue of adoption, criteria for a membership committee, timelines to the application process, and probationary membership.

Lawrence Martin, the Mushkegowuk Council RGC, who was in attendance at this meeting, stated that in reviewing the MCFN Governance Strategic Plan (GSP), it was clear that MCFN is ahead of the process. He also suggested that development of a constitution become the next step in the GSP work plan; a foundational document as MCFN progresses through the development of other codes. For NAN to move into the Final Agreement negotiations, AANDC requires the development of a constitution. Lawrence also noted that a presentation would be made to Chief and Council on Jan. 26. The purpose was to outline the Mushkegowuk governance development process, and to talk about what is expected from each community.

#### GCC Teleconference February 8

The Governance Committee continued with a review of Draft #4 of the membership code. The GCC came to an agreement on the definitions in Part III. The GCC also reviewed Part IV Administration, and came to a consensus on who was responsible for what in the administration of the code and the composition of the advisory committee.

GCC Meeting February 11-12.

The Governance Coordinating Committee met in Sault Ste. Marie to continue with the review of the membership code, and to begin review of the election code.

In reviewing the membership code, the GCC agreed that clarity of wording is necessary to understand the code. The committee agreed to remove the sections on who may apply for membership and who may not. This was done on the basis that anyone may apply for citizenship as long as they meet the criteria, and go through the application process. The application process was also clarified, and the application review factors were developed to replace membership criteria. The section on Giving Up of Membership was changed to Revocation and the process for dealing with this issue was reviewed and clarified.

The Committee also agreed that a proposal to the Professional and Institutional Development Program be developed for the next fiscal year to continue the work of governance capacity development. For the next year, the Committee recommends that development of a constitution for MCFN be the next step in this development.

The GCC also discussed the impacts of the Matrimonial Real Property legislation currently being considered by the Government of Canada. The passing of this legislation will have implications for the issue of governance by First Nations, and policy development, including housing and residency as well as child welfare.

Membership Feedback

Last December, copies of the membership code and the election code were sent to MCFN members of voting age. Feedback forms were included. To date only 6 responses were received, and we thank those who took the time to review the codes and send in their comments and suggestions. The majority of the comments received were already incorporated into the membership code as part of the ongoing discussions of the GCC. The project coordinator reviewed the comments, and prepared a short report for review by the committee.

Draft #6

At the meeting on February 12, the Committee agreed that Draft #6 of the code be included with the Bear Fax newsletter. The draft membership code, now known as the citizenship code, is close to being finalized.

The Governance Coordinating Committee encourages the MCFN membership to review this draft and respond with comments and/or suggestions. Please remember that this is not the final draft, and other changes may be incorporated.

Comments in the side margins are there to explain why some of the changes were made, but these will be taken out in the final draft.

If you have any questions about the Draft #6, please feel free to call or email the Committee members. Elizabeth Angecone, the Project Coordinator, is also available. She can be reached at 705-254-2702, Ext. 230 or by email at eangecone@missanabiecree.com.

GCC Committee Members

Louise Campbell	Debbie Ewing
Jackie Fletcher	Jason Gauthier
Craig Gideon	Victoria Pezzo
Elizabeth Angecone (Project Coordinator)	

GCC Meeting Schedule

February 29: GCC teleconference  
 March 5: GCC teleconference  
 March 12: GCC teleconference  
 March 31: Review and Approval by Chief and Council, Ratification Process begins.

List of Acronyms:

GCC – Governance Coordinating Committee  
 PID – Professional and Institutional Development  
 AANDC – Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (formerly Indian and Northern Affairs Canada)  
 RGC - Regional Governance Coordinator  
 GSP - Governance Strategic Plan

## Community News and Notes



### OUELLET, (nee Gideon), Margaret "Alice"

Passed away peacefully at the Hornepayne Community Hospital with her family by her side on Wednesday FEBRUARY 25, 2012 at the age of 78 years. Beloved wife of the late Florian Ouellet. Loving mother of Lorraine Wilson, Theodore 'Ted' Ouellet (Margaret) and Judy Wilson (Donald). Proud grandmother of Scott, Dean, Shawn, Ashley, Kyle, David and great grandmother of Lillian, Abigail and Emma.

Daughter of the late Agnes and Jack Gideon. Dear sister of Jackie Fletcher, June Markie, Fred Gideon, the late Mabel 'Joyce' Black and the late Robert Gideon. Alice will be fondly remembered by her many nieces and nephews. Alice was an Elder of the Missanabie Cree First Nation.

At Alice's request a memorial service will be held in the Summer of 2012. Memorial donations made to the Alzheimer Society would be greatly appreciated by the family.

(Funeral arrangements entrusted to the P.M. Gilmartin Funeral Home, Wawa, 1-800-439-4937).

## News Items

### GOVERNMENT FACES ABORIGINAL CHALLENGE ADVOCATES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND NATIVE CHILD WELFARE JOIN APPEAL

By Teresa Smith, Ottawa Citizen, February 14, 2012

Sweet-smelling smoke from a smudging ceremony filled an Ottawa courtroom Monday as a controversial case began that could open the door for First Nations residents to argue they are being discriminated against en masse by the federal government.

With the ceremony aside, the legal wrangling began. Facts that could prove the federal government is discriminating against aboriginal children by underfunding child-welfare services on reserves need to be heard in court, said lawyers for the Canadian Human Rights Commission.

The commission is one of several groups appealing a 2011 ruling by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal - which the commission oversees. In that ruling, the tribunal dismissed a discrimination case brought by the Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada.

The complaint argued the underfunding of child-welfare services on reserves leads to poverty, poor housing, substance abuse and a vast overrepresentation of aboriginal children in state care.

However, the federal government argues that because it sends funds to band managers - who administer the services - the government cannot be held responsible for

the services delivered.

The government also says the question is invalid because it funds services on reserves, while provincial governments are responsible for services to the rest of Canadians, and that comparing two governments is both "unreasonable" and nonsensical.

The "comparator" argument was used in the Human Rights Tribunal's initial decision to dismiss the case in 2011 before any of the main evidence had been heard. But First Nations Child and Family Caring Society lawyer Nicholas McHaffie told the court that comparing services to another group is only one "evidentiary tool."

Human Rights Commission lawyer Philippe Dufresne told the hearing Monday that "the court must look at the facts, examine the services and determine if there is suffering."

Currently, five per cent of aboriginal children living on reserve reside in care, away from their families. That's eight times more than other Canadian children, according to 2010 testimony by former auditor general Sheila Fraser.

In 1990, the federal government adopted a policy requiring child welfare services provided to First Nations children on reserves to meet provincial standards, be reasonably comparable with services for children off reserves and be culturally appropriate.

But Fraser's audits consistently found the federal government "had not sufficiently taken into account provincial standards and other policy requirements when it established levels of funding for First Nations agencies to operate child welfare services on reserve."

Cindy Blackstock, executive director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada, has said if the government is allowed to use the comparator argument, it would "immunize the government from any discrimination or human rights claim relating to its funding policies and procedures on reserve."

More than 9,000 people worldwide are participating in the "I am a Witness" campaign, pledging to watch the

proceedings - in person if they can, or on the Aboriginal People's Television Network, which will be televising the review.

The case continues.

Read more: <http://www.ottawacitizen.com/life/Government+faces+Aboriginal+challenge/6147786/story.html#ixzz1mSl6qPve>

## NAN RELEASES INDEPENDENT EDUCATION REPORT THAT OUTLINES THE CHALLENGES OF THE NORTH

**THUNDER BAY, ON:** Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Deputy Grand Chief Terry Waboose today released Kikinahamaagewin, a comprehensive independent report on education in NAN First Nations. This report comes in advance of the release of an education report by the National Panel, a national education review process by the Government of Canada and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN).

"This report has found that the administration of education under the Indian Act is a failed paternalistic regime, with policy driven not by education outcomes but by severely flawed funding formulas that are hopelessly outdated and discriminatory against First Nations," said NAN Deputy Grand Chief Terry Waboose, who holds the education portfolio. "This report reflects the need for a new education regime that strengthens, supports and enables our existing school systems to ensure that the education received by First Nation students meets all provincial standards and fulfils Canada's Treaty obligations to NAN First Nations."

Kikinahamaagewin outlines that the path forward for NAN First Nations' education must be based on two key principles: Indian control of Indian education and adequate and sustainable funding to ensure that First Nation education needs are met now and in generations to come.

The report is not part of the National Panel process, but will be submitted directly to the federal government and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) as NAN First Nations' position on improving education with respect to the rights of the people of Nishnawbe Aski.

NAN First Nations rejected the National Panel as a flawed and deficient process established without input from First Nations. The National Panel's mandate did not include a review of pre-school education, post-secondary or vocational education, and failed to address the critical funding gap between native and non-native students.

"We opposed the National Panel process because it may recommend legislation that will enable the federal government to govern First Nation education," said Waboose. "This amounts to a backdoor revision of the Indian Act, and has the potential to arbitrarily define and diminish our Treaty right to education while holding little prospect of improving the quality of education our children deserve."

Instead of passing legislation that will strip First Nations of their Treaty right to education, NAN is calling on the Government of Canada to provide fair and adequate funding for much-needed improvements in education facilities, support services, special education, teacher salaries and curriculum education outcomes that will ensure that First Nation students receive a quality education on par with students across Canada.




NAN has also participated in a joint panel report with the First Nations Education Council of Quebec and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, *Report on Priority Actions in View of Improving First Nations Education* another independent report separate from the National Panel process that was released in November 2011.

Further to this NAN has participated in the development of the Chiefs of Ontario report titled *Our Children, Our Future, Our Vision: First Nations Jurisdiction over First Nations Education in Ontario*, which will be released the same day as the National Panel report on First Nations Elementary and Secondary Education.

For more information please contact Jamie Monastyrski, A/Director of Communications – Nishnawbe Aski Nation (807) 625-4978 or (807) 630-7087 cell or by email [jmonastyrski@nan.on.ca](mailto:jmonastyrski@nan.on.ca).

*Nishnawbe Aski Nation is a political territorial organization representing 49 First Nation communities in James Bay Treaty No. 9 and Ontario portions of Treaty No. 5 – an area covering two thirds of the province of Ontario.*

# MCFN Events Calendar

		SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
F E B R U A R Y  2 0 1 2		 <b>Ki sha Peesim</b> Great Moon (Hope of Spring)			1	2	3	4	
	5	6	7	8	9	<b>Healthy Snacks after 1:30</b> <b>Craft Class</b> 6:45-8:30 pm COCA Centre	10	11	
	12	13	14 <b>Happy Valentine's Day</b> 	15	<b>Elders' Tea</b> 1:30 - 3:30 pm COCA Centre	16	17	18	
	19	20 <b>Family Day</b>	21	22	23	<b>Craft Class</b> 6:45-8:30 pm COCA Centre <b>Beaded Dream-catcher/Knitting</b>	24	25	
	26	27	28	<b>Craft Class</b> 6:45-8:30 pm COCA Centre <b>Beaded Dream-catcher/Knitting</b>	29	<b>Elders' Tea</b> 1:30 - 3:30 pm COCA Centre	Circle of Creative Arts (COCA) Centre is located at 648 Queen St. E		
M A R C H  2 0 1 2		SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
		 <b>Mee Kisi Peesim</b> Eagle Moon				1	2	3	
	4	5	6	7	8	<b>Healthy Snacks after 1:30</b> <b>Craft Class</b> 6:45-8:30 pm COCA Centre	9	10	
	11	12	13	<b>Craft Class</b> 6:45-8:30 pm COCA Centre	14	<b>Elders' Tea</b> 1:30 - 3:30 pm COCA Centre	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	<b>Craft Class</b> 6:45-8:30 pm COCA Centre	23	24	
	25	26	27	28	<b>Elders' Tea</b> 1:30 - 3:30 pm COCA Centre	29	30	31	

# February Birthday Greetings

FEBRUARY 1



Happy Birthday!

Jason Charette


FEBRUARY 2



Happy Birthday!

Shane Smith

FEBRUARY 3



Happy Birthday

Eric Krobath  
Carolyn Salo


FEBRUARY 4



Happy Birthday

Cathy Lynn Clement  
Jeanette Petrie

FEBRUARY 5



Happy Birthday!

Barbara Nyman

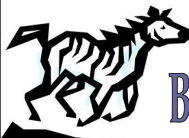
FEBRUARY 6



Happy Birthday!

Katharine Nemeth


FEBRUARY 8



Happy Birthday!

Clifford Bain  
Jennifer Fletcher


FEBRUARY 9



Happy Birthday!

Emily Hinds-Jeffries  
Matthew Horn  
Ryan Krobath


FEBRUARY 12



Happy Birthday!

Alain Pelletier  
Brittany Wiebe


FEBRUARY 13



Happy Birthday

Paul Guidon


FEBRUARY 14



Happy Birthday!

Makayla Fletcher  
Alexandra  
Langford-Pezzo


FEBRUARY 15



Happy Birthday!

Charles Wesley  
Adrian James Shields

FEBRUARY 16



Happy Birthday!

Garnet Fletcher  
Nathan Jeffries  
Isabell Souliere


FEBRUARY 20



Happy Birthday

Danielle  
MacDonald-Kaplun

FEBRUARY 21



Happy Birthday!

Mildred Fletcher  
Zachary Jeffries  
Joel Stevenson

FEBRUARY 22



Happy Birthday!

Elizabeth Rask


FEBRUARY 23



Happy Birthday

Kyle Fletcher


FEBRUARY 24



Happy Birthday!

Nolan Rainville

FEBRUARY 25



Happy Birthday!

James Gideon  
Gloria Wesley

FEBRUARY 27



Happy Birthday!

Kyle Bateson  
Ashton Bissaillion  
Vanessa Jeremiah  
Joanne Woods

# Opportunities

## “FN Style”

### Clothing Art Design Contest

“FN Style” is a new and premier clothing line centered on your lifestyle that is inclusive of the First Nations culture, customs and traditions, by showing respect to the valuable lands and resources around us.

“FN Style” is looking for art designs to be included on all clothing apparel. It is important to the “FN Style” clothing line to have Aboriginal Artists design the artwork for the clothing apparel; making it unique and a way of life and style. If your style is:

- ✓ Fishing, then your “FN Style” is a clothing art design around fishing and the water.
- ✓ Hunting, then your “FN Style” is a clothing art design around hunting and the natural resources.
- ✓ Skiing, then your “FN Style” is a clothing art design around skiing and mountains.
- ✓ Camping, then your “FN Style” is a clothing art design around camping and the wilderness.
- ✓ Skateboarding, then your “FN Style” is a clothing art design around skateboarding.
- ✓ Snowmobiling, then your “FN Style” is a clothing art design around snowmobiling and utilizing the land.
- ✓ Any Sport, then your “FN Style” is a clothing art design around the sport of your choice.
- ✓ Or if you are telling a story through Art work, then your “FN Style” should be reflective of First Nations culture, customs and traditions.
- ✓ And so on and so forth!!

Remember, it’s all about your style and your style only! As individuals, we are all unique!

**When you send your art designs, please keep in mind to mail your originals and a scanned copy** \_\_\_\_\_ (as a high resolution document). It is not limited to one design per person. It can be as many as you want.

Please include your Name, Phone #, Email, Mailing Address and story behind the Art Design.

It can be emailed and forwarded by mail to:  
fnstyle@hotmail.ca

and

Attn: FN Style  
Clothing Art Design Contest  
1359 Anderson Road  
Kenora, ON  
P9N 4J8

- ✓ Contest Winners will receive a monetary award!
- ✓ There will be a total of 4 contest winners!
- ✓ Winners will have their art work designs on the “FN Style” clothing line!
- ✓ Deadline for submissions is March 30, 2012

All contest winners will be notified by email or phone.

We would like to say MIIGWECH to those who do submit their art work design!!

Please note that all art work submitted to “FN Style” will be a trade mark of “FN Style”





## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: LAND USE PLANNING MANAGER

**LOCATION:** Timmins, Ontario

**CLOSING DATE:** 4:00 pm, Wednesday, February 22, 2012

**SUMMARY OF POSITION:** Mushkegowuk Council is supporting the land use planning activities of the Mushkegowuk First Nations. The planning is community led but regionally integrated through Mushkegowuk Council. We are looking for an experienced Manager who can provide leadership for this initiative.

The Land Use Planning Manager is responsible for leading the land use planning project. The Manager will be involved in the selection and supervision of staff as well as the development and maintenance of budgets and program plans. The Manager will also be responsible for the development of proposals and fulfillment of contracts. Overall the Manager will ensure that Mushkegowuk First Nations are aware of and involved in the planning process and that the planning process proceeds according to First Nation direction.

### **QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Post-Secondary Education in a related field, or an equivalent combination of experience and education
- Experience in supervision and program management
- Experience with effectively managing budgets, financial statements and financial reporting
- Proven organizational and information management skills
- Experience in the development and implementation of proposals
- Ability to understand and synthesize reports and other documentation
- Excellent interpersonal, communication (oral and written), and computer skills
- Ability to speak Ojishkegomowin (Cree) would be considered a strong asset
- Experience in planning and/or natural resource management
- Knowledge of the culture of the relevant First Nations, along with an understanding of their aspirations, socio-economic needs, stewardship values, and history
- Ability to work as part of a team, and communicate effectively with a diversity of people including First Nations staff and members, as well as government representatives
- Highly self-motivated individual who can take initiative and follow through to completion
- Must be able to multi-task, with strong time management, leadership, program management and problem-solving skills
- A strong desire to develop a working knowledge of lands and resources issues affecting First Nations and relevant Provincial government ministries and agencies
- Must be willing to travel and work various hours
- A valid Ontario driver's license is required

This posting is a summary only; a full job description is available at [www.mushkegowuk.ca](http://www.mushkegowuk.ca)

Please submit a resume and covering letter with three (3) references to:

Lands and Resources Director (marked "confidential")  
Mushkegowuk Council  
36 Birch Street South  
Timmins, ON P4N 2A5  
Phone: (705) 268-3594  
Fax: (705) 268-3282  
Email: [land@mushkegowuk.ca](mailto:land@mushkegowuk.ca)

## Health Notes



### **TOBACCO AND THE ADDICTION TO SMOKING**

The Creator and Mother Earth have given us many gifts. Each of these gifts has special powers and as a result, they must be respected and used in the proper way. Among these gifts is a sacred medicine called Tobacco. Traditionally, tobacco has been used by many First Nations for healing, guidance, spiritual strength, discipline and protection. The Elders have taught us that all medicine is powerful and each has a good side and a bad side. If misused, tobacco, like medicines, has power to hurt you.

Today, many First Nation youth feel pressure to use tobacco in a different way. Sometimes they are pressured by their friends to smoke, but mostly they are pressured by the media.

Each year tobacco companies spend millions of dollars on advertising which tell youth that they need to smoke cigarettes in order to be cool, glamorous and exciting. What they don't tell you is just how dangerous smoking really is.

### **YOU NEED TO KNOW THE FACTS**

#### **Health Effects of Smoking Among Young People**

Among young people, the short term health consequences of smoking include respiratory and non-respiratory effects, addiction to nicotine, and the associated risk of other drug use. Long term health consequences of youth smoking are reinforced by the fact that most young people who smoke regularly continue to smoke throughout adulthood.

The average age that First Nation youth begin smoking is 12 years.

First Nation female youth between the ages of 11 and 16 years of age have the highest smoking rates in Canada.

- Cigarette smokers have a lower level of lung function than those persons who have never smoked.
- Smoking reduces the rate of lung growth.
- In adults, cigarette smoking causes heart disease and stroke. Studies have shown that early signs of these diseases can be found in adolescents who smoke.
- Smoking hurts young people's physical fitness in terms of both performance and endurance, even among young people trained in competitive running.
- On average, someone who smokes a pack or more of cigarettes each day lives 7 years less than someone that has never smoked.
- The resting heart rates of young adult smokers are two to three beats a minute faster than non-smokers.
- Smoking at an early age increases the risk of lung cancer. For most smoking related cancers, the risk rises as the individual continues to smoke.
- Teenage smokers suffer from shortness of breath almost three times as often as teens who don't smoke, and produce phlegm more than twice as often as teens who don't smoke.

- Asthma affects 13.6 percent of First Nations youth, and exposure to second hand smoke may contribute to worsening of the condition and its symptoms.
- Teenage smokers are more likely to have seen a doctor or other health professional for an emotional or psychological complaint.
- Younger First Nation adults aged 18-29 years have the highest proportion of daily smokers (53.9%).
- Teens who smoke are three times more likely than non-smokers to use alcohol, eight times more likely to use marijuana, and 22 times more likely to use cocaine. Smoking is associated with a host of other risky behaviours, such as fighting and engaging in unprotected sex.
- Youth whose friends do not smoke are four times less likely to smoke.
- Youth whose parents do not smoke and disapprove of smoking are two times less likely to smoke.

It is important that we now educate First Nations youth from an early age regarding the effects of smoking. We need to provide role models and encourage positive and healthy lifestyle choices for youth. We also need to ensure that we provide the necessary supports and systems for our youth if they do become smokers. It is important that we address the needs of our youth in a way that will encourage and support them.

#### References

1. CDC, Preventing Tobacco Use among Young People—A Report of the Surgeon General, 1994.
2. Lew EA, Garfinkel L. Differences in Mortality and Longevity by Sex, Smoking Habits and Health Status, Society of Actuaries Transactions, 1987.
3. AJHP, Arday DR, Giovino GA, Schulman J, Nelson DE, Mowery P, Samet JM, et al. Cigarette smoking and self-reported health problems among U.S. high school seniors, 1982-1989, p.111-116.

Office on Smoking and Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention August 1996.

Tobacco is very addictive. Every day, over 300 young people try smoking for the first time. Many of them quickly become addicted. Recent studies show that one-half of all smokers started before age 15. Among children aged 3-7, at least 25% have actually tried smoking and 80% of them will end up smoking in the future. As First Nations, one of our most powerful methods of teaching is through our actions and by setting an example.

You can be an important role model by choosing to be healthy and by only using tobacco in a respectful and sacred way.

**OUR NEXT ISSUE OF THE BEAR FAX WILL HELP TO INFORM YOU OF  
SMOKING AND CANCER**

**(Information provided by Assembly of First Nations.)**

## Concerning the Earth



### FIRST NATIONS IN ALBERTA & NWT SIGN SAVE THE FRASER DECLARATION, OPPOSING THE PROPOSED ENBRIDGE PIPELINE AND TANKERS PROJECT

January 27, 2012, (Marketwire, Edmonton, Alberta)  
This afternoon, First Nations from Alberta & the Northwest Territories added their names and support to a formal declaration opposing the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline and supertankers project. In signing the **SAVE THE FRASER DECLARATION** - a formal legal declaration that protects the world's most critical salmon rivers, and the Pacific North Coast, from the threat of oil spills posed by the proposed Enbridge oil pipeline and supertankers.

The Yinka Dene Alliance, which is made up of 6 Nations (Nadleh Whut'en, Saik'uz, Takla Lake, Nak'azdli, Wet'suwet'en and Tlazt'en Nations) in northern British Columbia led the creation of the Declaration in 2010. Since then, First Nations signing onto this opposition of the proposed Enbridge pipeline and tankers has snowballed to more than 100 First Nations in BC, Alberta and the NWT.

Members of the Yinka Dene Alliance including Chief Jackie Thomas traveled to Edmonton for a signing ceremony to welcome the support of Alberta & NWT Nations. "The Harper government has made clear that they plan to ram the Enbridge pipeline and tankers through. He wants to sacrifice First Nations once again for this tar sands poison," said Chief Jackie Thomas of Saik'uz First Nation. "We will stop them."

The signing of this Declaration comes after a long week of Chiefs, Elders and community leaders from various communities presenting oral evidence to the Enbridge Joint Review Panel here in Edmonton. Testimony given by various communities in Alberta echoed Nations in BC and outlined the serious concerns many First Nation communities have about the proposed route of the pipeline and its close proximity to waterways, culturally-sensitive areas and traditional hunting, fishing and gath-

ering sites in the province.

Alberta First Nations affected by tar sands developments - and also living downstream of the proposed Enbridge pipeline route and possible pipeline oil spills - committed to helping the Yinka Dene Alliance and BC First Nations to protect their lands.

"As a community being impacted by rapid tar sands development in the Alberta we support the Yinka Dene Alliance and understand the importance of protecting sacred waterways from the dangers of this pipeline," stated Chief Allan Adam of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation. "Our community has seen the devastating impacts of tar sands projects and we truly hope that our brothers and sisters in the Fraser River do not suffer the same fate."

The **SAVE THE FRASER DECLARATION** recognizes the connection to tar sands expansion projects and criticizes the federal process to approve the pipeline. The Declaration states, "This project would link the Tar Sands to Asia through our territories and the headwaters of this great river, and the federal process to approve it, violate our laws, traditions, values and our inherent rights as Indigenous Peoples under international law..."

"Our downstream communities have already experienced impacts from the ruptured Enbridge Norman Wells pipeline in the NWT, which is still being cleaned," stated Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus. "A rupture in the Northern Gateway pipeline could also affect us because the water comes north. People in the north get their drinking water directly from the rivers and streams." New Signatories to the Declaration include Dene Nation, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Swan River First Nation, Smith's Landing First Nation, Katlodeeche First Nation, Liidlii Kue First Nation, Deh Gah Got'ie First Nation, Dene Tha' First Nation, and Deh Cho First Nations.

#### Contact Information:

Yinka Dene Alliance  
Chief Jackie Thomas  
250-567-8048

Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation  
Chief Allan Adam  
780-903-6598

Dene Nation  
Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus  
613-859-5063

# MCFN Membership

**Ted Ouellet -**

**Registration Administrator**

174B Hwy 17East

Garden River, ON P6A 6Z1

Phone: (705) 254-2702, Ex. 228 Fax: (705) 254-3292

Email; touellet@missanabiecree.com

Toll-free: 1-800-319-3001

If your name appears on the Birthday Greetings page incorrectly, please contact Ted Ouellet.

The following is a list of band members for whom we do not have a current mailing address:

Dorothy Bain (Bignucolo)	Daniel Rocheleau
Kaleb Jeffries	Iana Ruth
William Jeffries	Jayson Ruth
Jeremy MacDonald	Theresa Ruth
Allan McDonald	Victoria May St. Amand
Richard Donald McLeod	(Fletcher)
Cynthia Nemeth	Catherine Wesley
Craig W. Pelletier	Juliana Holly Wesley
Natalie Pelletier	Michael Wesley

Our **MISSING ADDRESS LIST** fluctuates as members move around and do not send in their new address. When a monthly newsletter is returned by the Post Office, the member's name will be deleted from the mailing list, until I/we receive their new address.

PLEASE NOTE: I CANNOT RECEIVE ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS FROM ANYONE ELSE; ONLY FROM THE PERSON INVOLVED, the reason being, anyone can call in and report an address change without their knowledge. Please use the change of address form below and mail or fax it to Missanabie Cree First Nation or call or email Ted Ouellet at the address noted above.

**Members, please keep your address up-to-date, by filling out the change of address form below so you don't miss out on pertinent information regarding band business.**

Names of deceased members are not removed from the band voter's list unless the information is provided to Indian Affairs. Anyone with funeral information (i.e. name of funeral home/location), date of death, a death certificate, or anyone who can be contacted for this information, please call or leave a message with Ted Ouellet at the MCFN Band Office.

Miigwech.



## MISSANABIE CREE FIRST NATION

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM - - For Band Members

SURNAME	
First Name and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Name	
ALIAS/BAND #	
DATE RECEIVED	
NEW ADDRESS	
CITY/PROVINCE	
POSTAL CODE	
E-MAIL ADDRESS	
TELEPHONE #	
SIGNATURE	

## VISION STATEMENT OF THE MISSANABIE CREE

We are the Anishnabe of the Missanabie Cree First Nation whose vision is to have a united and self-governing body that will determine our destiny guided by the seven laws.

We have a vision of a leadership that is open, honest, trustworthy;  
a leadership with conviction, accessible to the people;  
a leadership that is progressive yet respectful of our traditions, values and beliefs;  
a leadership with confidence, always watchful and assertive  
in protecting and preserving the treaty and aboriginal rights of our people;  
a leadership that is directed by our people  
and with exclusive accountability to our people and our people alone.

We have a vision of our community re-established on the traditional lands that were once the homeland of our ancestors where institutions of our government, economy and education can once again thrive.

We have a vision of a people where individuals and families can stand strong and find healing through tradition and spirituality;  
individuals and families who are loving and compassionate.

We have a vision of a people who are bi-cultural and bi-lingual;  
a people who can walk in both worlds contributing to our well-being,  
the well-being of our brother and sister First Nations; contributing and competing globally.

We have a vision of a Nation of people who respect the dignity of all;  
a people who find balance through equality of all ages, male and female alike.

We have a vision of people who respect the environment,  
harvesting and reaping the resources of the land in a sustainable manner  
as responsible stewards for the use of future generations.

We are the Anishnabe of the Missanabie Cree First Nation whose vision it is to regain and restore our rightful place and through the strength of our people, never again be denied our place in society.

### MISSANABIE CREE FIRST NATION

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### MCFN Chief & Council + Staff

Chief Kim Rainville **ex. 236**  
Deputy Chief Bobbi Fletcher-Decorte **ex. 504**  
Councillor Jason Gauthier **ex. 507**  
Councillor Roy Gideon **ex. 505**  
Councillor Jutta Horn **ex. 227**  
Councillor Edward Robinson **ex. 506**  
**A/Band Administrator** Lori Rainville **ex 222**  
**Reception** June Markie **ex 221**  
**Bookkeeper** Louise Campbell **ex. 224**  
**Program Development** Lesley Gagnon **ex. 226**  
**Administrative Assistant** Gladys Hawkins **ex. 231**  
**Registration Administrator** Ted Ouellet **ex. 228**  
**Negotiations Coordinator** Jutta Horn **ex. 227**  
**Communications** Elizabeth Angeconeb **ex. 230**  
**Cultural Coordinator** Isabell Souliere **ex. 232**  
**Land Use Planner** Archie Nolan **ex. 235**

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