

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



Welcoming Members, Friends, Neighbours and Visitors

Tawaw. Welcome to Treaty 5 Territory. Those are some of the first words visitors see when they first enter Opaskwayak.

The words are captured on sturdy billboards and located on the sidelines next to all three routes as you enter the community.

The signs are 16 x 18 feet and can be seen at night when a vehicle's headlights shine over the highlighted paint. The billboards are a small investment from Chief and Council that are intended to have a long-lasting impact.

"As part of the reconciliation process, governments and average Canadians have started giving land acknowledgements when holding events within this country," said Chief Sidney Ballantyne. "This is the next step to that. Allowing us, as the first people of these lands, to have space and take up space that is not only rightfully ours but also done in a way that is safe and makes everyone feel proud."

The signs were done with simplicity in mind so the focus can be on Treaty Five. The design on the signs were done by Honest Agency, a consulting company that Opaskwayak uses for communications. They are branded with the similar colours of red, white and black that Opaskwayak the organization uses.

For those that have not seen the billboards yet and want to take a drive: one is located on highway 10 north (after Gardewine turn) as you come in from the Aseneskak Casino side. The next one is coming in from Bracken Dam (just after the Melnyk and Constant houses). The third sign is on Highway 10 south (just after cementary road) as you enter from Northland Ford side.

Special thanks to members of the Infrastructure crew that stormed the cold weather in the middle of the winter to put up the signs! ●



THIS SIGN IS LOCATED ON HIGHWAY 10 JUST NORTH OF OPASKWAYAK. IT IS ONE OF THREE SIGNS THAT ARE PLACED ON ALL THREE ENTRY POINTS INTO THE COMMUNITY.

Message From Chief Sidney Ballantyne



“Opaskwayak is in good hands with the amount of people working in the organization to make a better tomorrow. There is no doubt we all want a bright future.”

CHIEF BALLANTYNE

Tansi. Opaskwayak citizens: it has been an honour to serve as your Chief for the past 18 months. I am very fortunate to be on this rewarding journey with you. Kinanaskomitin.

As a nation, we have led the way for over six decades when it comes to breaking barriers. We have had leaders with visions that have always advanced our people. My leadership style is no different.

Since the '80s, leadership has identified the need for a better financial structure. After much planning, we are nearly there. Our organization is in our fifth year of a change management action plan that is working to centralize finances across the seven branches: Government Services, Education, Health, Child and Family Services, Lands and Natural Resources, Infrastructure, and Business Enterprises (formerly known as PBDC). At the same time, we are working toward centralization in our human resources, communications and information technology sectors.

What's exciting about this huge structure change is that it puts the citizens needs first. This will allow for better cash flow from branch to branch and essentially allow for better services for you and your families. There will be less people falling through the cracks of our current crumbling system. Things like better travel to see specialists in the south, recreation dollars for our youth, elders subsidies, and more options for low-income families who depend on social assistance.

If you've taken a drive around our community lately, you will physically see some minor changes, including the "Welcome to Treaty Five Territory" signs as you enter into Opaskwayak from any of the three major routes or the continuous building of new homes.

There are also a lot of changes happening that you can't

physically see just yet. Take for example the strides the Child and Family Services Branch are making when it comes to creating our very own Child and Family Law known as "Wakohtowin."

And then there are great movements in our Lands and Natural Resources Branch. In Lands, there's been a \$1 million commitment from the federal government, as a starting point, to renegotiate deals made in the '90s when the government never lived up to their own duties. In the Natural Resources area, we officially signed an agreement to start collecting our timber dues and stumpage fees.

This past winter, Opaskwayak broke ground to build a brand new apartment block in Winnipeg. Once completed, there is potential to collect \$1.5 million annually, which will be put back into programs and services in the community.

While making our own revenue is key to bettering ourselves, we must continue to lobby the federal and provincial governments to invest in us. And with our 20-Year Community Master Plan, it makes sense as in the long run these investments will lead to healthy and successful people.

For those that know me, you know that I am big on investing in the future of Opaskwayak. We must always work with the best interests of our grandchildren and great-grandchildren in mind. Opaskwayak is in good hands with the amount of people working in the organization to make a better tomorrow. There is no doubt we all want a bright future.

In the meantime, Chief and Council will continue to work together to put your needs first.

Tapwe Kiche ●

Treasury Board Update

At the Treasury Board, we are busy ensuring all our policies are up to date. We are in the process of updating our Financial Administration Law (FAL) and Home Ownership Loan Policy, for example. The Home Ownership Loan Policy is in its third and final reading and will soon be presented to the Treasury Board and Council for final review.

Right now, we are working closely with the Business Enterprises Branch, helping to make sure that projects, like the gas station, are in good financial and operational shape.

We are also in the middle of budget season and getting ready for the new budget to kick in on April 1st. As the Treasury Board is responsible for risk management, it is our job to do our due diligence to guarantee branches have a final budget that covers their risks and lets projects run smoothly. Projects not covered (or partially covered) by Indigenous Services Canada are funded with our own-source revenue. ●



MIKE BIGNELL,
CHAIR – TREASURY BOARD

New Community Relations Unit Serves Opaskwayak Membership

Opaskwayak members can now reach out to the new Community Relations Unit, set up to look after citizens' requests, community events and Elders; and funerals and emergency travel under the Wichitowin and Kenanow programs.

Chief and Council noticed a gap when it came to helping membership in areas that don't quite fit into the programs available through the seven branches. "We often had citizens come into chambers asking for help because they don't know where to go," said Chief Sidney Ballantyne. "While we are there for our members and understand that sometimes citizens want to talk to their leaders, this unit will allow for quick flow through our organization and remove any 'red tape' so people's needs can be met in a timely manner."

Managed through the Executive Office, there are four staff now and two hires planned.

"These staff are already well known in the community and have taken on similar roles because our

membership trusts them," said Rhonda Ross, CEO. "Ensuring their needs are met is a priority. At the end of the day, this is a safe space for our citizens."

Lester Constant, who has worked with Opaskwayak for over 20 years, has taken the role of Unit Supervisor. Constant started with the Youth Centre, moved to Social Services, worked with Social Development, in Health Services, and as Travel Clerk with the Finance Team.

"As a long-time staff member who's worked in different capacities in a few of the branches, I am excited to see this unit come together," said Constant. "This team will help eliminate some of the stresses that band members feel in their time of need."

Michael G. Constant (Mukoo), Community & Political Liaison; Mike Jebb Jr (Mikoots); and Joe Partridge have also joined the unit. Watch for postings for a Community Events Liaison and an Administrative Assistant to complete the team.

The new Community Relations Unit manages:

- Citizen Requests
- Emergency Travel and Funeral Services under the Wichitowin and Kenanow programs
- Elders
- Opaskwayak Events (powwow, OID, etc.)


Hours are 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday

Call: 1-204-627-7269

After hours: 1-204-627-6375 ●

"Ensuring their needs are met is a priority. At the end of the day, this is a safe space for our citizens."

RHONDA ROSS, CEO



COMMUNITY RELATIONS UNIT
 1-204-627-7269
 After hours: 1-204-627-6375



JOE PARTRIDGE, LESTER CONSTANT, MIKE JEBB JR, AND MICHAEL G CONSTANT POSE FOR A PHOTO INSIDE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE.



CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

Developing Wakohtowin Child and Family Services Law

“We are committed in advocating for members, and aligning our prevention services with other resources to support families.”

MARTHA BUDD-GENAILLE,
WAKOHTOWIN ADMINISTRATOR

At the end of this calendar year, Opaskwayak should have its own Wakohtowin Child and Family Services Law. This law is being created under a process set out in federal legislation called, An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families, which is often called Bill C-92.

Our community started developing Wakohtowin Law in the summer of 2020. Opaskwayak was the first community in the province to let the federal government know that we would be making changes to how the child welfare system would handle our children.

“We are essentially taking out what doesn’t work for us in the Manitoba Child Welfare Act & replacing it with principles and legislation that support the prevention and preservation of families,” said Martha Budd-Genaille, Wakohtowin Administrator. “We aren’t interested in how things have been done in the past because we know removing children from families does not work for our people. We are committed in advocating for members, and aligning our prevention services with other resources to support families.”

While some communities have already signed agreements, Opaskwayak has chosen to write our own law, from start to finish, based on community engagement. There is some coordination with Misipawistik Cree Nation and Berens River when it comes to sharing experiences, as all three communities prepare the completion of their own laws.

“We continually attempt to address gaps in the current child welfare system by improving services, speaking to funding shortfalls and moving away from the status quo,” said Budd-Genaille. “Therefore, our intent is to include all of Opaskwayak,

including on- and off-reserve, in having a say on how our law will be drafted.”

So far there have been three community meetings on this issue in both Opaskwayak and Winnipeg. Community consultation was a challenge from the start because of the COVID-19 pandemic, so other measures were taken to ensure many voices could be heard including creating working groups and having a lot of meetings online.

“In previous community engagement, we have asked for support in speaking to areas that need changes by including voices from Elders, youth, parents, staff, and our legal counsel into this law,” said Budd-Genaille. “Knowledge that includes going back to our own traditional ways. In order to do this, a working group was established and it entitles hearing from Elders and traditional knowledge carriers, many of whom talk about the importance of going back to the basics and the beginning of creation.”

The Wakohtowin working group consists of staff from every department within Child and Family Services including income assistance, as well as staff from the Health, Infrastructure, Education Services, and Lands and Natural Resources branches. Other working group members include economist Mark Anielski, child welfare consultant Elsie Flette and Elder Irene Young. The legal team working on the Wakohtowin Law are from Saunders-Delaronde.

The Elders and Knowledge Carriers that Child and Family Services work with have said that, as Swampy Cree, our community have always lived in accordance with natural laws given by the Creator and since creation, we were taught

Wakohtowin (relations and kinship).

This natural law has eroded with time and colonization. Our ways of life as individuals, family and as a community have been interrupted and ignored due to colonial laws and policies imposed on our people. A few of the bigger traumatic experiences of First Nations people include the Residential School System, the ‘60s scoop, missing and murdered Indigenous peoples, and the on-going millennial scoop, also known as the current child welfare system.

According to the Executive Director, the Opaskwayak Child and Family Services Branch is pleased the Wakohtowin Child and Family Law is being developed by Opaskwayak members.

“We are proud of the fact the legal framework of Bill C-92 is grounded in Wakohtowin because in relationship, we all matter,” said Myrna Flett, Executive Director of Opaskwayak Child and Family Services. “And our relationship with the Creator has always shown us that teachings come in seven.”

This is why there are 7 different parts to the Wakohtowin Child and Family Law:

1. Key Principles and the best interests of the Opaskwayak Child;
2. Governance and oversight;
3. Prevention services;
4. Intervention;
5. Dispute Resolution;
6. Long Term Care for Opaskwayak Children;
7. Inter-relation of Wakohtowin Law with other laws.

Through this Bill C-92 Process, Opaskwayak will also commit to

“The Wakohtowin Child and Family Law and Well-being Service Delivery Model will replace the current provincial child welfare system so that Opaskwayak children and families are served, supported, valued and kept together in the same homes,”

MYRNA FLETT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF OPASKWAYAK CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

the development of a Wakohtowin Well-being Service Delivery Model. This is an outline for Opaskwayak to follow when it comes to delivering programs and services. The Wakohtowin Service Delivery Model will essentially turn this law, along with all our programs and services, into reality.

The Executive Director says this will go hand in hand with the Wakohtowin Child and Family Law and that one is not above the other.

“The Wakohtowin Child and Family Law and Well-being Service Delivery Model will replace the current provincial child welfare system so that Opaskwayak children and families are served, supported, valued and kept together in the same homes,” said Flett.

The Wakohtowin Law will be nationally recognized. This means that in the future, if any Opaskwayak member becomes involved in the child welfare system in Canada, those provinces have to respect the Wakohtowin Law and will have to notify Opaskwayak.

Before any of that can happen, the Opaskwayak Child and Family Services Branch continues to have further engagement sessions with families and community.

The branch expects to have another round of community meetings this spring and summer. Once the dates have been confirmed, they will be posted on the Opaskwayak website, Facebook and Twitter pages.

To hear more about the Wakohtowin Child and Family Services Law, please contact:

Charity Ridderikoff, Wakohtowin Assistant

Email: cridderikhoff@ocncfs.ca

Phone: 204 627 7240 ●

Child and Family Services Update

In the Child and Family Service (CFS) Portfolio, we continue to work with Elders, youth and community members to advance Wakohtowin Law: our version of the implementation of the act respecting First Nations, Metis and Inuit children, youth and families. This is commonly referred to as Bill C92.

Wakohtowin means “relatives” or “relations.” Our goal is to use former Indigenous laws, current practices, and traditions to incorporate our own version of CFS focused on prevention over apprehension. We want to keep children in the family or extended family, as much as possible; reduce the number of kids in care; and use mediation or tribunal systems to settle issues instead of the court system.

Recently, we hired a land-based worker under the Family Enhancement Program. They work with Elders to provide families with opportunities for land-based healing.

Soon, we are opening a second 5-Plex for children who age out of the foster care system. This building will be housed in Big Eddy.

In the next few months, we will be meeting with the federal government and the provincial government to negotiate a coordination agreement where Opaskwayak is given funding and the authority to exercise jurisdiction on the laws respecting child and family. ●



EDWIN JEBB,
CHAIR – CHILD
AND FAMILY
SERVICES



COUNCILLOR EDWIN JEBB, CHIEF SIDNEY BALLANTYNE, CHILD AND FAMILY CARING SOCIETY OF CANADA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CINDY BLACKSTOCK, WAKOHTOWIN CONSULTANT ELSIE FLETTE, MISIPAWISTIK COUNCILLOR ANNIE BALLANTYNE AND MISIPAWISTIK CHIEF HEIDI COOK DURING A WAKOHTOWIN WORKING GROUP MEETING.



LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Timber Dues Agreement Signed

“Reconciliation isn’t just land acknowledgements anymore, it’s putting action behind those words and really seeing concrete results,”

CHIEF BALLANTYNE



CHIEF SIDNEY BALLANTYNE AND MINISTER GREG NESBITT SIGN AGREEMENT AT A CEREMONY AT THE KIKIWAK INN.

Opaskwayak has officially signed an agreement with Manitoba to collect timber dues and stumpage fees as part of an on-going pilot project. For the next two years, the community will be given 45% of what is made from the forestry industry within the traditional territory of Opaskwayak.

The payments to Opaskwayak will be done in six-month increments, which in turn will go back to the Lands and Natural Resources Branch.

“This historic signing between Opaskwayak and Manitoba signifies true reconciliation, one that is a long time coming,” said Diane Ballantyne, Natural Resources Manager. “Not only is this the beginning, it also sets the precedent for more future agreements that our Nation and others across the province can benefit from in the long run.”

Last summer, Opaskwayak signed a memorandum of understanding

regarding this same matter. At that time, it was to show faith about a reconciliation process between government-to-government relations. Signing this agreement, shows the province is living up to its promises to follow through.

“Reconciliation isn’t just land acknowledgements anymore, it’s putting action behind those words and really seeing concrete results,” said Chief Sidney Ballantyne. “I am pleased to see the province following through with a tremendous opportunity that not only benefits our community but it also benefits the entire province.”

The province and Opaskwayak have agreed that this move is a step towards improving socio-economic conditions for the First Nation.

As part of this agreement, Manitoba will provide the First Nation with a summary of the timber volume harvested and total

timber dues collected in the timber dues revenue sharing area for the payment period. Also, part of the signing included a promise from Opaskwayak to provide a summary report describing how the funds were applied towards improving the lives of those living in the community.

The summary report will be used to collect information in the spirit of reconciliation and to help develop longer-term timber dues revenue sharing for possible future agreements.

Manitoba will share timber dues revenue received for timber harvested under the authority of a commercial timber cutting right, as defined in The Forest Act. The agreement backdates to January 1, 2022 and will continue until June 30, 2024.

For more information regarding this agreement please contact Diane Ballantyne at Diane.ballantyne@opaskwayak.ca.



CHIEF BALLANTYNE PRESENTS MINISTER NESBITT WITH A TRADITIONAL GIFT WELCOMING HIM TO TREATY FIVE TERRITORY.



MINISTER NESBITT ADDRESSES MEMBERSHIP IN ATTENDANCE AT THE KIKIWAK INN DURING THE SIGNING CEREMONY.

Lands and Natural Resources Update

Last month, we signed a historic agreement with the Province of Manitoba for timber stumpage fees, where Opaskwayak will see 45% of the revenues for timber cut here flowing back to our community. As we move forward, we are looking to negotiate similar agreements for revenue sharing on all the resources being abstracted from Opaskwayak lands.

We had a planning and priorities session in August where we held a referendum on the question of whether Land Authority Board

members should be appointment or elected. The membership has voted to keep the Land Code as it is, with Board members being elected. Now, we are starting the budget process for the next fiscal year, based on our plans.

Every month, we meet with our managers and with stakeholders such as ISC, the Province, RCAN, Hydro, Ducks Unlimited, mining, forestry, highways and transportation, and Opaskwayak fishermen and trappers. Now, we are also preparing to meet with other Opaskwayak branch boards to get an understanding of projects that have been planned for next year.

Deficit budgets in some of our departments continue to challenge us. We hope to see stumpage fees remain with our branch for two years, see how it looks for the next five years, and then we plan to share any surpluses across Opaskwayak.

Regarding the Timberland trailer court, we are looking to work with leadership and infrastructure to come up with a plan; funding is needed to develop the area, waters and sewer upgrades; and decisions need to be made on what to do with the existing trailers and where to house those members. ●



JOHN-PAUL MARTIN, CHAIR - LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Lobbying Initiatives in Ottawa and Winnipeg

“...Opaskwayak is the only First Nation in Canada to have embarked on such a process or to publish a long-term strategic framework to guide decision-making and development in the community.”

MARK QUINN, PRESIDENT OF QUINN PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

With the constant need to expand our capacity whether it’s in staff, buildings, or developments within Opaskwayak: there is always a struggle to find the funding for such projects.

Opaskwayak has embarked on our own ventures with our own source revenue but, frankly, there isn’t enough to keep up with the demand. Opaskwayak continues to see a steady growth in population, with more than 6,260 people, and more than half of whom live on reserve.

“I am a firm believer that in order for our Nation to be truly successful, our citizens all need to be thriving,” said Chief Sidney Ballantyne. “As we look back to traditions and customs, we see that everyone played a role in community. We must work together and leave no family behind. Wakohtowin. It’s our way.”

Opaskwayak faces similar demographic, social and economic challenges as other First Nations. Because there are so many communities going after the same types of funding, we learned to get creative to get our foot in the door. In order to meet our needs, leadership both past and present have gone to Ottawa (federal matters) and Winnipeg (provincial and regional matters) to “lobby.”

To lobby, or lobbying, may roughly be defined as applying political strategy to achieve government outcomes: developing, stopping or amending a bill or regulations; obtaining funding; getting political support; or changing a government policy. The goal is to bring perspective to busy legislators (that cannot be expected to be knowledgeable about every piece of legislation under development) who may appreciate getting help and being empowered.

Lobbying helps reduce the “buffers” governments sometimes create between themselves and the “real world” of everyday concerns experienced by the public.

By bringing “real world” evidence from the public in the form of facts, arguments and issues, it then helps shape a broader and more inclusive public debate.

Removing all the government jargon, it basically means finding common ground between politicians and grassroots folks and working toward compromise that is going to make everyone happy, aka a win-win situation for all involved.

For over the past decade, Opaskwayak has used the same agency, Quinn Public Affairs (QPA), to lobby on its behalf.

“Here at QPA we create lasting relationships and partnerships with our clients based on our values of respect and trust,” said Mark Quinn, President of Quinn Public Affairs. “We assist our clients in creating a plan that will help to realize their strategic objectives.”

QPA does a lot of Government Relations, Public Relations and Communications including crisis communication, issues

management, stakeholder outreach and engagement for dozens of organizations.

“It’s been an honour working with Opaskwayak all these years,” said Quinn, “because when it comes to preparing information packets, not only is there a lot of information to work with, there is a lot of vision and thought put into planning community sustainability for future generations. This often helps get meetings in a timely manner with the appropriate governmental authorities.”

This past winter, some members of Chief and Council and staff travelled to Ottawa and Winnipeg for lobbying efforts in all of the seven branch areas. While the priorities differ in each branch, some more achievable in the short-term versus long-term, there are common threads throughout Opaskwayak where certain areas need more lobbying efforts.

The top ten areas where QPA continues to help Opaskwayak include:



MINISTER OF CROWN-INDIGENOUS RELATIONS MARC MILLER MEETS WITH CHIEF BALLANTYNE, COUNCILLOR JOEL PELLY, COMMUNITY AND POLITICAL LIAISON MICHAEL G CONSTANT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RHONDA ROSS IN HIS OFFICE ON PARLIAMENT HILL.

1. Awareness for 20-Year Community Master Plan
2. Egg Lake Healing and Recovery Centre
3. Elders and Youth Recreational and Cultural Centre
4. Beatrice Wilson Health Centre
5. Hilda Young Childcare Centre
6. Critical Housing
7. Ten-year grant
8. Regional Solid Waste and Recycling Facility
9. Opaskwayak Commercial Strip
10. Otineka Development Corporation Office Complex

All of these items on a bigger scale, will elevate us as a prosperous and healthy Nation. They aim toward helping our citizens heal, grow and prosper to be successful contributing members of society, a win for all of Canada.

The 20-Year Community Master Plan

In 2021, Chief and Council embarked on a long-term community planning process, leading to the release of a 20-Year Community Master Plan in the spring of 2022.

The Master Plan identifies key developments that are needed in areas ranging from housing, economic development, health

care, education, and recreational facilities to ensure a healthy, prosperous and vibrant community over the next 20 years.

The Master Plan reflects extensive consultation with Opaskwayak citizens, administration and leadership and identifies priority developments that will contribute towards the long-term economic and social health of its people.

In recent months, the Master Plan has gained a lot of traction from all levels of government: local, regional, provincial, federal and even other Indigenous governments.

To give you an idea, some of the key government legislators that Opaskwayak has shared the 20-Year Master Plan with include:

- Keith Conn, Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) First Nations Inuit Health Branch, Indigenous Services Canada
- Niki Ashton, Member of Parliament, NDP, Churchill-Keewatinook Aski
- Indigenous Affairs and Northern Affairs deputy critics
- Minister Marc Miller, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations
- Minister Patty Hajdu, Indigenous Services Canada at AFN
- MP Badawey, Parliamentary Secretary to Minister Hajdu
- Hon. Dan Vandal, Saint Boniface – Saint Vital, Minister of Northern Affairs; Kevin Lamoureux, Winnipeg North;

and Terry Duguid, Winnipeg South. (This was a Meeting with Manitoba Caucus - Winnipeg)

“To Chief and Council’s knowledge, Opaskwayak is the only First Nation in Canada to have embarked on such a process or to publish a long-term strategic framework to guide decision-making and development in the community,” said Quinn.

“When going lobbying with Opaskwayak, it’s exciting to see the engagement from the legislators and the response for follow up meetings. It shows that Opaskwayak has caught their attention and the legislators want to find solutions so they

too can achieve on their political outcomes.”

Moving forward, Chief and Council continue to be guided by the Master Plan in developing new partnerships with the Government of Canada. Funding proposals submitted to the federal government will be tied to the Master Plan and all projects proposed by Opaskwayak will have to contribute to the vision outlined in the Master Plan.

Federal government support will be vital as Opaskwayak continues to develop specific and fully-costed proposals to implement aspects of the Master Plan. ●



NIKI ASHTON, NDP MP FOR KEEWATINOOK ASKI HOLDS THE 20-YEAR MASTER PLAN AS SHE POSES WITH OPASKWAYAK LEADERSHIP AND SENIOR STAFF IN HER OFFICE ON PARLIAMENT HILL.

Health Update



HEALTH

Over the last 10 years, the Opaskwayak Health Services has been busy building services and a health care clinic.

The clinic operates with a rotation of five physicians and specialists are brought in for diabetes, heart, respiratory, footcare, vision and hearing. This has resulted in better outcomes for Opaskwayak and fewer people having to travel to Winnipeg.

OHS’s Mental Health Division has 14 mental health workers with close to 2,000 clients. These are the highest needed services at Opaskwayak given all the issues we face living on reserve and the

generational issues brought on by residential schools. We have suffered a lot.

OHS provides 42 services to our people including an Opioid Replacement Therapy program and a growing dementia services program with educational help from the University of Manitoba.

Looking to the future, we need a larger facility where we can offer more services, education and programming. We are bursting at the seams and want to play a bigger role in the delivery of services to northern Manitoba including a plant factory, where food would be available year-round, and an addiction centre at Egg Lake.

Several partners, including the Northern Regional Health Authority, have promised to help fund the addiction centre: a place where families can come to heal. We want to offer programs and support to help people abstain from substances, become stabilized and reduce harm associated with substance abuse. We need to build a Harm Reduction Healing Centre which will incorporate tools including the old 12 step program. ●



DALE KNUTSON, CHAIR – HEALTH



INFRASTRUCTURE

Home Building and Renovations Underway

Opaskwayak leadership are continuing to make housing a top priority. The Infrastructure Branch has secured \$8,065,000 through the rapid housing two initiative to build 10 5-plex buildings. In order to gain access to this funding, Opaskwayak had to contribute 40 per cent equity into this project, while CMHC contributed approximately \$4.8 million.

This funding has also allowed for Opaskwayak to build more types of homes at a faster pace than in years past. So far, two of those units have been completed. Currently, there are eight 5-plex units still under construction. Each 5-plex consists of four one-bedroom units and a two-bedroom unit.

"There is a national housing crisis in First Nations and has been for decades," said Joel Pelly, councillor and Infrastructure portfolio holder. "Here in Opaskwayak, we are trying to curb those numbers by finding other funding alternatives beyond the status quo the government gives to each community. We are also putting our own resources into housing as much as possible because we know that in order for people to become successful, their

basic living standards need to be met. The only way to make Opaskwayak a successful community is to ensure our members have access to homes."

Other housing projects, through Indigenous Services Canada and Section 95 funding, were completed this past fall, including:

- 3 four-bedroom bungalows (ISC)
- 1 five-bedroom bungalow (ISC)
- 5 four-bedroom bungalows (Section 95)

In the 2023 calendar year, there will be a total of 20 houses and eight 5-plex units built, including:

- 5 two-bedroom bungalows (Section 95)
- 7 three-bedroom bungalows (Section 95)
- 3 three-bedroom bungalows (ISC)
- 5 three-bedroom bungalows (ISC)

The 5-plex buildings will be located in the 800 block of Kiche Maskanow. One of those 5-plex buildings will be dedicated to housing working professionals.

There are also two one-bedroom

units that were completed in partnership with students at the Oscar Lathlin Collegiate and cost \$200,000 to complete. Another project in collaboration with Child and Family Services allowed for the completion of two 5-plex buildings.

In addition to the building of new homes, Opaskwayak invested nearly half a million dollars into renovating 10 band units this past year. When it comes to work orders, housing has fulfilled the following: 351 plumbing orders, 105 electrical work orders, 48 carpentry orders, and up to 15 medical ramps installed on homes across Opaskwayak. The Infrastructure Branch recently secured nearly another \$1 million. This will allow for an additional 20 band units to be renovated in the coming year.

The Opaskwayak Infrastructure Branch and the housing department are applying for the rapid housing three initiative. The deadline to submit was mid-March and if successful, this would allow Opaskwayak to build another 10 three-bedroom units in the community. Let's think happy thoughts and best of luck to the housing team on that proposal! ●

Infrastructure Update

In the last couple of months, the Infrastructure branch has kept busy with the winter beautification pilot project program helping Elders and community members in need by removing snow from their driveways and stairways. We are also working on a plan to rejuvenate the Big Eddy area by sending in a brush cutting crew to clear out the west side of the Kichemaskanow Road from Moose Park Road to the Mile 5 sliding area. I believe if we go ahead with this project, it would be an attraction where the Town of the Pas, the RM of Kelsey and Opaskwayak can share that beautiful view looking west.

We are pleased to announce that we are on schedule with the 94 service house lots in the Amisk west subdivision. The water and sewer systems are installed, and we are on pace to build the first seven units, along with a 5-plex to house our specialists in Health and Education. In the future, we plan to build two thirty-unit apartment blocks in the same area.

Our housing selections system has had a major overhaul to better suit Opaskwayak's social demographics. For example, the previous system was not fair for single parent household wage earners and social clients. Our team is hoping nobody falls through those cracks with this new housing selection system. This new system, which will be operational mid-summer, will also make the selection process fairer across the board to the Elderly. Our goal is to make sure that no one is left behind. Finally, as time goes on, it will be adapted to fit the needs of our growing community.

Thank you. Ekosi. ●



JOEL PELLY
CHAIR –
INFRASTRUCTURE



MEMBERS OF 315 CONSTRUCTION CONTINUE TO BUILD THIS FIVE PLEX ON KICHE MASKANOW IN BIG EDDY.



EDUCATION

Healthy Food for Joe A. Ross Students

From January to June, every student attending Joe A. Ross School will receive a box of healthy and nutritious food to bring home to their families at the end of each month.

“When a child is hungry, they don’t learn as well,” says Bev Fontaine, Director of Education at Opaskwayak Education Services Inc. (OES). “We’re making sure our kids have proper meals and are in a good place to learn.”

Last August, Jason Stevens at Food Banks Canada contacted Fontaine’s team looking to reach northern communities with food security concerns. Stevens helped establish a partnership between OES and Harvest Manitoba and five months later, the first 600 boxes of food were delivered to Joe A. Ross School on January 26th.

The boxes were full of items such as canned tuna, a family size box of Cheerios, Goldfish crackers, carrots, peanut butter, apple sauce and a 1% milk.

Students who would normally take the bus home called their parents to pick them up because the boxes were too heavy to carry home.

“The kids were excited,” says Fontaine. “My own grandson phoned me and said, ‘Come pick up this food!’”

This partnership will ensure students have access to healthy food over the weekend and help families offset rising food costs.

In January, staff at Joe A. Ross School received more food boxes than the population of students at school. They sent 24 boxes to Hilda Young Childcare Centre and 42 boxes to Oscar Lathlin Collegiate that were distributed to the Grade 7 and 8 students.

OES and the staff at Joe A. Ross School would like to thank Food Banks Canada and Harvest Manitoba for providing food for families in need.

About Harvest Manitoba

Harvest Manitoba collects and shares 12 million pounds of healthy and nutritious food with children, families and adults living in Manitoban every year.

Harvest helps anyone who asks for food. Visit <https://www.harvestmanitoba.ca/need-food/> to learn more or contact the Food Support Line at 1-800-970-5559 or email kellym@harvestmanitoba.ca.



CHILDREN AT JOE A. ROSS SCHOOL RECEIVED THEIR FIRST BOXES OF FOOD FROM HARVEST MANITOBA IN JANUARY.



Education Update

As a part of the portfolio of Opaskwayak Education Services (OES), we are responsible for the delivery of educational programs for Opaskwayak members through empowering and promoting life-long learning.

We continue to strengthen our Cree language immersion and land-based programming. OES is currently preparing the next 5-year Education Strategic Plan 2024-2029. In the initial data collection, Cree Language and Culture were overwhelmingly favoured as top priorities in the community. Together with the Elders and our staff, we work to achieve these, along with other identified priority areas.

Through the commitment of our staff, Education has made tremendous strides this past year in all program areas.

Joe A. Ross School houses the first All-Inclusive Playground in the North which has become a staple for the youth and families in our community.

The Grow Our Own Specialists (GOOS) initiative continues to be promoted. This initiative aims to meet the growing needs of our community by providing enhanced opportunities for our students to pursue specialized professions such as occupational, speech, language, physiotherapy and psychology.

As a result of our Employment and Training Program, we have seen

success with our Women’s Home Builder program, which targeted women in trades (carpentry).

Oscar Lathlin Collegiate partnered with the Business Enterprises Branch to run a business club for their high school students.

Over the last year, an excellent study of our Cree Immersion program was published. The study looked at the challenges and successes of our immersion programming and provides important directions for the next steps in the long-term journey of language reclamation and revitalization at Opaskwayak. We recognize that language loss is occurring at a high rate in Opaskwayak and believe initiatives such as the Cree-Immersion Program at Joe A. Ross School is essential.



WILLIAM J. LATHLIN,
CHAIR – EDUCATION

Christmas Dinner in Winnipeg

Opaskwayak Chief and Council held a celebration in early December for off-reserve members living in and around Winnipeg. The decision was made to offer a warm space for those that do not live within the community and to remind each of them they are important and contributing members to Opaskwayak.

"Inclusion is important to me as the leader of Opaskwayak," said Chief Sidney Ballantyne. "Many of our membership have to leave the north and go get education and careers elsewhere as there are more opportunities down south. This was a chance for leadership to show our membership a good time together as we entered into the holiday season."

A nice buffet style Christmas dinner consisting of the traditional trinkets like turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, stuffing, salads and desserts, to name a few, were served on Friday, December 9, 2022. Upon entering the conference room at the Radisson Hotel downtown, guests were welcomed by Chief Ballantyne and Councillors John-Paul Martin, Derek Constant and Joel Pelly.

This was the first major event held off-reserve since before the COVID-19 pandemic began. The event was held from 5-8 p.m. and had seating for 350 guests

with some tables left empty as the night went on. The dinner was hosted by former APTN and CTV Morning News host Michael Hutchinson.

Chief and Council had opportunity throughout the night to speak to the members in attendance up on stage. Offstage, leadership moved table to table and spent time with the guests.

There was also an open mic: a chance for membership to give greetings to one another.

While most were shy to go up on stage, Elder Sylvia James made her way up to share how happy she was to spend a night with leadership and other off-reserve members.

Another member, Tahnee Flett, spoke about the importance of having support around you and how being together during the holidays is good for the heart. Flett went on to mention she and her family host a pow-wow night within the city and encouraged others to stop by.

Special acknowledgement is also in order for Opaskwayak Child and Family Services as they provided take-home candy bags for all guests in attendance.

Over a dozen door prizes were handed out throughout the night



BUFFET STYLE DINNER AT RADISSON HOTEL WAS PROVIDED TO OFF-RESERVE MEMBERS IN EARLY DECEMBER.

thanks to our generous sponsors. Chief & Council would like to thank our partners for contributions to the following door prizes:

- \$300 Flying Squirrel card - Clarke Financial
- \$300 Golf Dome gift card - Clarke Financial
- \$300 Olive Garden gift card - Baker Tilley
- \$300 Outlet Mall gift card
- Two Jets tickets - Baker Tilley
- Two Jets tickets - MNP
- Two Jets tickets (box seats) - BellMTS ●
- \$300 Family movie night - TIPI Insurance
- \$300 Costco gift card - TIPI Insurance
- \$300 Gas gift cards - TIPI Insurance
- \$300 Thermea spa card - Jerch Law

The Christmas Hamper Drive

Another tradition was carried out this past Christmas season with the annual Christmas turkey and hamper giveaway. For over two decades, a turkey has been given to each household on-reserve, while Elders and those living on social assistance received hampers with all the Christmas fixings.

This past year, Opaskwayak leadership decided to help all

families living in the tri-communities that are band members. In total, 1,000 hampers were handed out to membership living in Opaskwayak, The Pas and the RM of Kelsey.

A bulk of the funding to cover the hampers was done from leadership and the Opsakwayak Government Services Branch. There was also a radiothon in early December on the local

radio station CJAR 102.9 FM, where Councillors Edwin Jebb and William J. Lathlin pleaded with listeners to donate to a great cause. Over three days, for two hours on the air, the duo shared inspiring stories and jokes and took calls from the public. In total \$32,000 was raised.

"This is an event that I participate in every year because it shows community spirit and is a

chance to support one another," said Edwin Jebb, Councillor and Child and Family Services chairperson. "This allows our members a chance to have a wonderful Christmas celebration in the comfort of their own homes with their families."

Special thanks to everyone who called in to donate to this past year's Christmas Drive! ●



MFNPS Commissioners Sworn In

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

This past winter, Opaskwayak was the host community for the swearing in ceremony for the MFNPS Commissioners and the Chief of Police.

Opaskwayak’s Commissioner is Jennifer Lavallee-Bignell, who has been serving with the Commission since 2021. In July 2022, she was voted in as the Vice-Chairperson. She is one of eight members on the police commission.

“As the Commission, our mandate is to provide oversight on the service at the board level working together with Police Chief Doug Palson,” said Jennifer Lavallee-Bignell. “Safety is a major concern in the community, and we are working towards continued partnerships at various levels of government in order to move forward with improved policing services for our communities and the people that reside in them.”

The police commission was created to ensure the MFNPS are following procedures based on the needs of the communities. Commissioners ensure the police force is respectful of the culture, priorities and needs of all eight of the participating communities.

“It is important for our community to ensure public safety and policing be culturally appropriate. Additionally, respect and understanding our people of Opaskwayak strengthens the rapport that is required in building strong relationships,” said Maureen Brown, councillor and Government Service Branch portfolio holder. “This approach is required in keeping everyone safe. It is important to understand the long-lasting negative impacts of colonization (Residential Schools, 60’s scoop, CFS). When the understanding is there, it indicates that public safety in our community will continue to grow.”

The participating communities are: Opaskwayak Cree Nation, Birdtail Sioux First Nation, Canupawakpa Dakota Nation, Long Plain First Nation, Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation, Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation, Swan Lake First Nation and Waywayseecappo First Nation.

The expectation of the police commission is to ensure high quality policing services that are free from political influence. According to the MFNPS website, “this ensures the participating communities’ priorities, issues and concerns related to public



MFNPS COMMISSIONERS AT THE SWEARING IN CEREMONY IN OPASKWAYAK. MISSING FROM PHOTO: COMMISSIONER ELVIS PELLETIER.

safety and policing are identified and progress is monitored.”

The Commission meets quarterly, in different locations within the participating communities. When members start at the commission, they are provided with training including board rules, regulations and liabilities. Commissioners are also given handbooks on policies and regulations when they are appointed to serve.

Opaskwayak’s official launch date with MFNPS was on April 1st, 2021.

Current members of the Opaskwayak Detachment are

Sgt. Darryl Hunter, Cpl. Allen Boles, Cst. Brianne Dubois, Cst. Cale Laurence, Cst. Cole LeBlanc, Cst. Jason Bushe, Cst. Jordan Starr, Cst. Lauren Melnyk, and Cst. Thomas Nicolls. Detachment Clerks are Tiffany Kostyk and Monica Head-Stevenson.

Opaskwayak wishes to acknowledge the passing of Waywayseecappos commissioner Mr. Bryan Cloud who passed in December 2022.

Opaskwayak’s detachment phone number is 204-623-8201. ●

Government Services Update

At Government Services we have a team of committed people who oversee many diverse initiatives and services despite facing an HR shortage. Jennifer Lavallee-Bignell is the branch Executive Director. She oversees:

Public Safety

Officer Lily Bignell is becoming familiar with the Public Safety area that includes policing, security, and animal control.

All these services are being further developed and coordinated

toward best practices for our community. We ask for your patience during this time.

Buildings and Lands

We are developing an agricultural service in the branch to ensure the best use of land:

Donohoe Farms – developing a sustainable plan for land use.

Pete’s Potatoes – further development is required to include other initiatives the land can provide, and planning will begin once the agricultural service is set up.

Metis Side Big Eddy – this area is still not classified as Treaty land and ongoing talks remain.

Egg Lake – there is extensive work needed before this area is ready for use. A plan to have it converted to a Family Healing Centre is being discussed.

Membership

Membership is central to all services provided in Opaskwayak and it must be kept up to date, so this department is growing to meet the needs of our community. Soon, we will be streamlining to provide the data we require to negotiate well for our community.

Gaming

We’re pleased that more of our members understand the requirement to apply for gaming licenses

when fundraising. The nominal fee that is charged for this goes back into the department.

Court Cases

There are two court cases Opaskwayak is currently involved in: Forebay (Grand Rapids Dam) and Citizenship (Bill C 31). More details on these cases will follow.

Ahow Ekosani ●



MAUREEN BROWN,
CHAIR –
GOVERNMENT
SERVICES



BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

Opaskwayak Announces a New, Affordable Apartment Block in Downtown Winnipeg

“The continued support of current leadership has built the experience and strong partnerships which has enabled us to walk through this process confidently.”

GINGER MARTIN,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

Opaskwayak Chief and council were in Winnipeg on Jan. 11 to celebrate a “ground-breaking” announcement.

Opaskwayak, along with the federal and provincial governments announced a combined \$17.4 million investment that will fund the construction of 69 new apartment units in downtown Winnipeg.

The 7-storey concrete/steel apartment block, owned and operated by Opaskwayak, will provide quality and affordable living for students, young families and Elders living in Winnipeg when it opens in the summer of 2024. The building will be energy efficient and have heated underground parking and free water and high-speed internet for every unit.

“This is a symbol of economic reconciliation,” said Chief Sidney

Ballantyne. “It’s an example of municipal, provincial and federal government and our Cree Nation coming together to tackle the housing crisis in this city, our province and among First Nations people.”

The new downtown building located at 380 Young Street is a one-minute walk to the University of Winnipeg, nearby all major bus routes and will be a mix of affordable living with over 40 percent of the rental units being offered at highly discounted rates.

“The lower rent will ease the financial stresses of Opaskwayak students, along with other Indigenous students,” said Chief Ballantyne. “It will allow them to focus on their schoolwork and their career paths.”

“When young people leave Opaskwayak and come into the city, we know that that is a point of vulnerability,” said Manitoba

Families Minister Rochelle Squires. “We know now that they are going to have a safe place to call home, wrapped in their own community.”

The Celebration Ceremony

The announcement was preceded by a Pipe Ceremony for Opaskwayak Chief and Council and staff at the OCN Child and Family Services Building.

After the Pipe Ceremony, Opaskwayak joined city officials, Paragon Design Build, CMHC, Community Leaders, the media and stakeholders at the Axworthy Health & RecPlex.

The celebration began with a drum song performed by

EXTERIOR RENDERING OF 380 YOUNG STREET SUPPLIED BY PARAGON DESIGN BUILD.





EXTERIOR RENDERING OF 380 YOUNG STREET SUPPLIED BY PARAGON DESIGN BUILD.

Clinton Whitehead and Robert Obey and an opening prayer from Elder Irene Young. Michael Hutchinson, former host of APTN and CTV Morning News, emceed the event and introduced the speakers: Hon. Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion; Hon. Daniel Vandal, Minister of Northern Affairs and Minister responsible for Prairies Economic Development Canada; Minister Squires; Chief Ballantyne; and Nigel Fergus, CEO of Paragon Design Build.

During Chief Ballantyne’s speech, he presented Chief Gordon Bluesky of Brokenhead Ojibway Nation and representative of the Treaty One Nation with a star blanket and yellow print and thanked him for welcoming Opaskwayak to do business within Treaty One territory.

At the end of the celebration, everyone was invited to the project site across the street for a land blessing, honour song and sod turning.

An Investment in our Future

Ginger Martin, Executive Director of Business Enterprises, stood to the right of Chief Bannatyne at the sod turning, to help break

the ground before the building is constructed.

Martin spent the last two and a half years as the 380 Young Street Apartments project lead for Opaskwayak. She has worked alongside Paragon Design Build, CMHC, OCN leadership and Pitblado Law to see the project from idea to execution and will continue working with the leasing management company after the apartment officially opens.

“The vision of past leadership is to be acknowledged as this project is the first of its kind for this nation,” said Martin. “The continued support of current leadership has built the experience and strong partnerships which has enabled us to walk through this process confidently.”

Martin’s role includes ensuring that revenues and benefits from the apartment go back into the community on reserve and in Winnipeg. The generated revenue will be invested into funding similar future projects and developing housing initiatives on the reserve.

“380 Young Street is a stepping stone for this generation and the next,” said Martin. “Projects like this will allow Opaskwayak to continue as an independent and progressive First Nation.”

Tapwe Kiche

This project reflects a great deal of work from many dedicated people:

Chief and Council: Tapwe Kiche for recognizing and supporting a positive vision for our community.

The Business Enterprises Branch: Tapwe Kiche for your work on securing this apartment block over the past two years: this would not be possible without your hard work and dedicated staff.

Our Funding Partners: thank you to the federal government, through the National Housing Strategy’s National Housing Co-Investment Fund and the provincial government, through Efficiency Manitoba. This is a concrete example of economic reconciliation.

Paragon Design Build and CMHC: You are bringing quality and truly affordable housing to this city’s downtown core, the University of Winnipeg, and of course, Opaskwayak.

“Opaskwayak has so much to be proud of, to be thankful for and to be hopeful about,” said Chief Ballantyne. “Tapwe kiche to the members of Opaskwayak. This is an investment made with you in mind.” ●

Business Enterprises Update

In the last few months, the Business Enterprises Branch has been busy with the construction of the new apartment building in Winnipeg and the gas bar in Opaskwayak.

The downtown Winnipeg Apartment Building on 380 Young Street is already in the construction stages with a tentative completion date of summer 2024. The 7-storey concrete/steel apartment block, situated directly across the street from the University of Winnipeg, will be owned and operated by Opaskwayak. The building will provide quality and affordable living for students, young families and Elders living in Winnipeg. Opaskwayak will be investing \$1.8 million (\$800,000 from the Hydro Relationship Fund and \$1,000,000 from FNFA money) into the building, the province will contribute \$105,000 through Efficiency Manitoba, and the federal government will provide \$15.6 million.

Opaskwayak’s New Gas Bar will be starting construction in phases in April 2023. The Gas Bar will be a new building with 16 pumps for gas and diesel. Opaskwayak will be funding the project with an estimate of \$5,265,000 (an internal loan from FNFA money).

Other future projects this year for Business Enterprises include the Opaskwayak Cultural Resort and the Kikiwak Inn upgrades and renovation. ●



DEREK CONSTANT,
CHAIR – BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

The Opaskwayak Logo

Have you caught a glimpse yet? The family, the Eagle and Staff, and the full circle. It's all there in the Opaskwayak logo. Only, its design has been enhanced to be much sharper to the eye so it can stand out in Public Relations (PR) advertisements and on marketing products.

Why? Because Opaskwayak has long been a front-runner as a progressive First Nation. One Google search, and hundreds of stories, photos and videos pop up. And so does our logo.

Long story short: a great logo can make the difference between an average brand and an unforgettable one. And here in Opaskwayak, we are all unforgettable.

The enhanced version is known as a PR LOGO type. It's a bold visual that's meant to connect with our audiences - our members, our neighbours, all Canadians and the rest of the world.

Looking back, we were first called The Pas Indian Band and our logo was a side view of a pan-indigenous man on top of an arrow head. In the 1990's, we changed to the Opaskwayak Cree Nation and band member Les Michelle designed the logo we still use.

Then about a decade ago, talks began to possibly change that logo. However, after years of discussions and community consultation, we have arrived to where we are now - an enhanced version designed to bring the past into the future.

What stayed the same? The Opaskwayak Logo. The colour red in the faces completing the circle of life. The number of people, as they represent the different stages of life.

The differences you see in the PR logo version are few and far between. However, these changes are necessary as we assert our right to be seen. The enhanced bold version provides for easier printing and for the logo to stand out and be seen more clearly. The image on the flag hanging outside the Gordon Lathlin Memorial Centre is barely visible and some Elders have said it looks like a white surrender flag. The modern PR logo won't have that problem!

Color of the Eagle- the vintage logo is an artist rendering with a delicate red line while the modern logo is a PR version with thick black outline.

Eagle Staff- the vintage logo has both an Eagle wing and a Staff

while the modern logo combines wing and Staff into one. Both follow protocols of having 13 feathers attached to the Staff.

The family- you need an artist's eye to notice the very minor change on the hair.

The wordmark - as recommended by Elders, Opaskwayak Cree Nation (the English version of our name) was updated with Opaskwayak. In all our writing now, we are moving to using Opaskwayak instead of OCN.

The PR Logo was approved by a Chief and Council resolution in December 2022.

For the past few years, Opaskwayak has undergone much-needed structural changes that were identified going back to the 80's. So with all of this happening at once, it makes sense to find ways to instill pride for years to come - kawēsk tōta (do it properly).

We will continue to work our way toward a greater unity. As the Elders say, māmaw- ihito (be together in one group). Huge projects like our Wakohtowin Law and the re-org into seven branches help move us closer to unity and away from fragmented colonial

structures. Our enhanced PR Logo is a symbol of that movement.

The new look will be phased in this year and there will be a flag raising ceremony during OID 2023 while branch logos will be retired and honoured as well. Moving forward, every branch in Opaskwayak will use the same logo as we stand in common unity.

Between now and then, we are asking branches and members not to order items with the vintage logo and use up the items they have in stock. Until the Logo Use Guidelines have been approved, there is minimum distribution of the enhanced PR logo and brand.

Once a decision is made on the types of marketing materials going forward, anyone wanting to order items with the logo will be asked to go through the Communications Office with Tiar Wheatle at tiar.wheatle@opaskwayak.ca.

So how much change is there exactly? Apisīs (a little bit)

And the rewards? Kākikē (forever).

Māmawihito. kawēsk tōta. ●



OPASKWAYAK

SPECIAL THANKS TO LES MICHELLE FOR WORKING WITH HONEST AGENCY TO DEVELOP THE MODERN PR LOGO.