



The Alliance

INDEPENDENT FIRST NATIONS ALLIANCE
AUGUST 2023

- Ensuring Home Fire Safety
- A Brighter Future at Home
- Enhanced Care for the Community
- Pikangikum Member Receives Commendation for Courage
- Expanding Health, Fostering Community Wellness
- From Graduation to Aspiration, Celebrating the Journey
- 2nd Annual Student Golf Tournament
- Sowing Brighter Future for the First Nations
- Helping Community Members Make Informed Financial Decisions



ENSURING HOME FIRE SAFETY

INTEGRATED EMERGENCY SERVICES

Over the course of the summer, IFNA partnered with Indigenous Services Canada and later with the Ontario Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) Operation SAFER (Smoke Alarms For Every Residence) program to be able to put smoke alarms in every home in IFNA member communities. As the fire season continues, IFNA Integrated Emergency Services will continue to place smoke alarms in every residence in each community, with the goal of 100% of the homes having one by the end of August.

“With the current fire season, the worst it has been in Ontario, it’s vital to the safety of our communities and people everywhere that they put smoke alarms in their homes and check them regularly. We believe now more than ever that everybody deserves to have peace of mind, and with Operation SAFER messaging going out into our communities we can truly highlight the importance of smoke alarms and fire safety measures”

– Nicholas Rhone, IES Director and Regional Fire Rescue Chief

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF



WHITESAND



LAC SEUL



KITCHENUHMA YKOOSIB
INNINUWIG



MUSKRAT DAM



PIKANGIKUM



A BRIGHTER FUTURE AT HOME

After receiving funding in 2019, the Aglace Chapman Education Centre in Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig has officially opened. With the previous school only going up to Grade 10, the new facility has the capacity for students to stay in-community to complete their entire education through Grade 12. The new school, named after a former Chief, features amenities such as a woodshop and culinary class. The ribbon cutting ceremony and official opening took place on June 14th, 2023, with students having entered the school for the first time back in February.

“It really is a pride-filled moment. Being able to support our youth through their whole educational experience. We look forward to seeing the first Grade 11 class start this Fall and allow our students to stay in community.”

—Chief Donny Morris

ENHANCED CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY

MAMOW HEALTH



Earlier this year, Lac Seul officially signed on to join Mamow Health. Lac Seul has joined the fellow IFNA member communities of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig, Muskrat Dam First Nation, and Pikangikum First Nation in receiving physician services through Mamow Health.

“It has been a pleasure being involved with the Lac Seul communities. I’ve been welcomed by community members and enjoy working and collaborating with the health care staff. I appreciate the opportunity and being treated with kindness.”

— Dr. Lands of her time in Lac Seul.

Between the IFNA Health department and Mamow Health, the goal is to bring improved healthcare services to Lac Seul and the other communities. While IFNA Health addresses various requirements, Mamow Health specifically focuses on physician care, ensuring better continuity of care for the communities.

“With the integration of Mamow Health, the community can look forward to comprehensive support from both organizations. This move promises to enhance the well-being of Lac Seul residents and ensure access to top-quality healthcare”

— Alana Anderson, Executive Director of Mamow Health.



PIKANGIKUM MEMBER RECEIVES COMMENDATION FOR COURAGE

Back in May, Canadian Ranger Sergeant Buster Kurahara of Pikangikum First Nation was presented with the Chief of Defence Staff Commendation by the command team of the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group for his work in evacuations back in 2019. This esteemed award celebrates the bravery and professionalism shown by Sergeant Kurahara when he helped evacuate residents from his community Pikangikum.

“Working with IFNA IES and the Ranger Patrol group is such a positive experience, it’s so great to be able to help my community, especially in times of emergency. I’m thankful to have been honoured with this award and look forward to continuing my work within IES.”

— Buster Kurahara, Pikangikum First Nation

EXPANDING HEALTH, FOSTERING COMMUNITY WELLNESS



HEALTH

The Health department is gearing up to host paediatric clinics right from August 21st through December 22nd. The clinics will feature a team of experienced pediatricians, including Dr. Ranjit Baboolal, who has been providing care in IFNA communities since September of last year, along with new additions, Dr. Anna Banerji and Dr. Phil Mantynen.

In addition to expanding its medical team, the Health department is making strides in enhancing Public Health Programming. Along with more nurses joining their ranks, the department is thrilled to launch Ultrasound programming, marking a significant advancement in medical services for the paediatric population.

“The overarching goal of this program is to establish regular clinics in every community, offering paediatric care and allied health services such as physiotherapy and occupational therapy.”

— David De La Fosse, IFNA Clinical Manager

“On August 11th, the Holistic Family Gathering program will have a booth at Meno Ya Win focusing on Indigenous milk medicine, aligned with August being Breastfeeding Awareness Month, promoting health and wellness in the community.”

— Megan MacDonald, RN with IFNA Paediatric Program.

The Holistic Family Gathering program, in partnership with Meno Ya Win and SLFNHA, offers holistic support to expectant and new mothers at the hospital.

FROM GRADUATION TO ASPIRATION, CELEBRATING THE JOURNEY



EDUCATION SERVICES

Hard work and determination have led to success for 11 graduates from the IFNA Home Away Program (HAP). The June graduation ceremony in Sioux Lookout saw 9 students from Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug and 4 from Muskrat Dam collect their diplomas (2 of which were not HAP residents).

The IFNA education department hosted a graduation dinner on June 29th to celebrate the students and meet their proud families.

While some graduates are taking a gap year or working before continuing to post-secondary education, 3 students are heading to university in the Fall.

The Education department strives to guide and support students, encouraging responsibility and communication with teachers to ensure their progress.

“The ultimate goal is to promote post-secondary education, fostering economic development within the community, and preparing students for the real world. Graduation is the time of year when we get to see a milestone achieved toward the ultimate goal. Congratulations to all the graduates on their exciting journey ahead!”

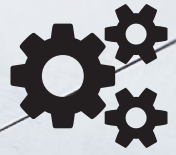
— Sherrie Kakekaspan, Manager IFNA Education

2ND ANNUAL STUDENT GOLF TOURNAMENT

At the end of June, IFNA hosted their Second Annual Student Golf Tournament at Whitewater Golf Club to help raise funds for an Indigenous youth scholarship through Oshki-Wenjack, Lakehead University, and Confederation College. 36 teams competed in the Best Ball tournament, alongside some friendly competition for Longest Drive and Closest to the Hole. Thank you to all the sponsors, and a special thank you to Abigail Sanderson for her organization in getting this tournament running again!

“After the success of last year, it was exciting to come back and plan another golf tournament in support of the First Nations students in Thunder Bay. This year was just as successful and it was a great day on the golf course”

— Abigail Sanderson, Tournament Coordinator



SOWING BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR THE FIRST NATIONS

TECHNICAL SERVICES

Technical Service's Northern Greenhouse Project, focused on food security, sovereignty, and economic development for IFNA member communities, is making remarkable progress. By cultivating locally, they aim to reduce food costs and dependence on expensive imports. Funding applications are set to go out in mid-Fall, and groundwork for the cost-effective operational design is in-progress, paving the way for a self-sufficient future.

"The establishment of greenhouses within the communities will ensure a consistent and reliable supply of fresh and nutritious food, mitigating the challenges posed by remote locations and limited access to resources. At IFNA, we try our best to bridge the gaps, and this is just one of the ways we are doing so"

— Jonathan Gregg, Technical Services Manager

"A gap-filling approach, alongside the support of stakeholders and partners, is how we aim to empower IFNA member communities with this project"

— Andrew Pedersen, Environmental and Solid Waste Coordinator



HELPING COMMUNITY MEMBERS MAKE INFORMED FINANCIAL DECISIONS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The IFNA Economic Development department has been working in partnership with Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund to offer free workshops on financial literacy for community members in all five of the IFNA communities. These workshops aim to help community members with various financial and business literacy items, such as money management, loans and grants, insurance, and much more.

"It's important for not only our community members, but really everybody, to become familiar with financial literacy terms. Making informed decisions on savings, budgeting, and everything money related can help people prepare for their future in an informed capacity instead of waiting until financial emergencies might happen."

— Colin French, Economic Development Officer

Economic Development Officers Colin French and Nathaniel Anderson will be joined by NADF Business Support Officer Ajey Meekis to deliver these workshops. Workshops have already taken place in Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug and Pikangikum First Nation.

Sign up when they come to your community!

- August 21-25**
Muskrat Dam First Nation
- September 25-29**
Lac Seul First Nation
- October 23-27**
Whitesand First Nation



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