



The Alliance

INDEPENDENT FIRST NATIONS ALLIANCE | OCTOBER 2024

- IFNA Hosts Meeting in Pikangikum with update amid Federal Election Speculation
- Lac Seul Celebrates Signing of Flood Agreement
- Welcome Back Students!
- Regional Fire Rescue Members Become Crew Boss Certified
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IFNA HOSTS MEETING IN PIKANGIKUM WITH UPDATE AMID FEDERAL ELECTION SPECULATION



ADVOCACY & GOVERNANCE

At the end of the summer, IFNA senior management travelled to Pikangikum First Nation for the quarterly Chiefs Meeting. More than just a meeting, this trip was an opportunity to connect with a community rich in culture and tradition. As the planes descended into Pikangikum, the beauty of the northern landscape unfolded, and the community's warm welcome immediately made the IFNA team feel a part of their home.

The Eenchokay Birchstick School, a beacon of learning and resilience, proudly hosted the gathering. Its vibrant artwork, a testament to the community's heritage and profound connection to the land, set the stage for the crucial discussions ahead. The IFNA board and staff united to tackle pressing issues, sharing their challenges and brainstorming solutions.

The Governance & Advocacy discussions during the meeting primarily focused on the Canadian political landscape with the possibility of an early

federal election looming. Since then, the NDP's decision to withdraw support from the Liberal government has added a sense of urgency to prepare for a change in government. The Governance & Advocacy department has led IFNA in planning to adapt to any political changes, fully aware that federal decisions will have a direct impact on the communities we serve.

Beyond the current political climate, Advocacy & Governance is concentrated on managing IFNA governance updates as we grow, assisting with enhancing our financial status and controls, as well as keeping IFNA member community Chiefs informed of key issues and events.

Being the first visit to Pikangikum for the new IFNA Advocacy & Governance Director, the meeting was about more than just the outcomes but a deeper connection to the community—a reminder of our shared purpose and commitment to fostering a brighter future.

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF



WHITESAND



LAC SEUL



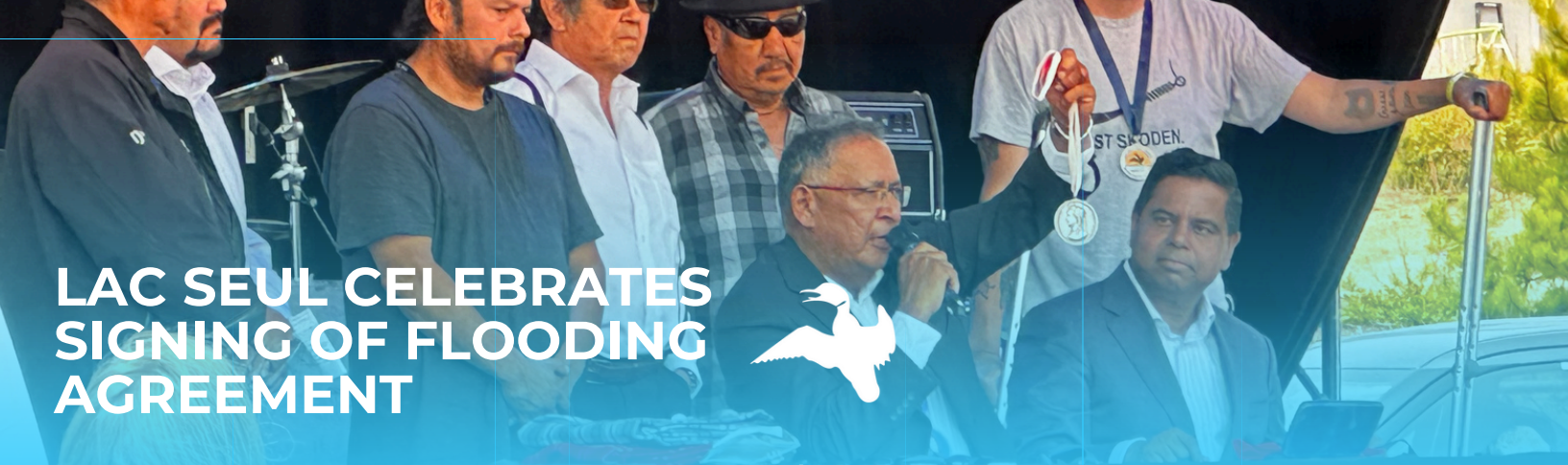
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MUSKRAT DAM



PIKANGIKUM



LAC SEUL CELEBRATES SIGNING OF FLOODING AGREEMENT

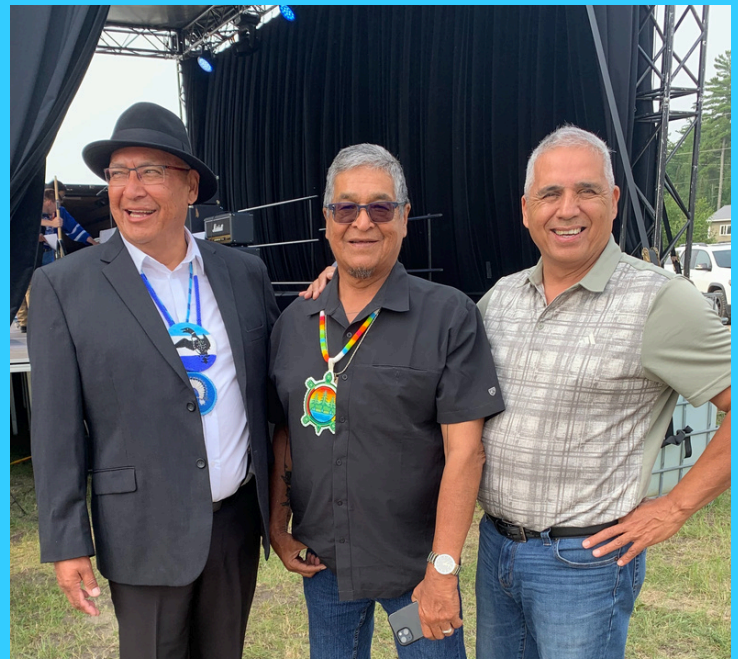
During Treaty Day celebrations in Lac Seul, the community also celebrated the signing of their flooding settlement agreement. The day began with ceremony, prayer, and speeches from Chief Clifford Bull, Ogichidaa Francis Kavanaugh, MPP Sol Mamakwa, Honourable Minister Gary Anandasangaree (Crown Indigenous Relations), and Mayor Doug Lawrence of Sioux Lookout.

This agreement was the culmination of years of negotiations and legal battles surrounding the flooding of Lac Seul lands. In the 1920s, the construction of the Ear Falls Dam led to flooding of vast areas of Lac Seul First Nation's lands, including homes, burial grounds, and essential hunting/gathering territories, causing extensive displacement and hardship for the community.

The settlement agreement, represents a long-awaited resolution and acknowledgment. The settlement includes financial compensation, supporting community initiatives, infrastructure development, and future projects.

The settlement marks the beginning of a new chapter for Lac Seul First Nation.

Today we celebrate a significant step in Truth and Reconciliation, ending generations of suffering and beginning a legacy of hope and healing for our future generations.”
– Chief Clifford Bull



From left to right: Chief Clifford Bull, Ogichidaa Francis Kavanaugh, IFNA Advocacy & Governance Director - Franklin Paibomsai

WELCOME BACK STUDENTS! EDUCATION SERVICES



We are excited to welcome students from Muskrat Dam and Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI) to the Home Away Program in Sioux Lookout as they begin or resume their high school journey. We wish all students a successful school year filled with learning, growth, and memorable experiences.





REGIONAL FIRE RESCUE MEMBERS BECOME CREW BOSS CERTIFIED

INTEGRATED EMERGENCY SERVICES

In partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, four IFNA Regional Fire Rescue members (from Lac Seul and Pikangikum) completed the SP202 Crew Boss training in Rinker. This is a highly sought-after course and difficult to be chosen to participate. Well done on achieving this milestone!



From left to right: Hunter Angeconeb, Creid Strang, Terry Angeconeb, Clayton Peters



STRENGTHENING EMS SUPPORT IN PIKANGIKUM

INTEGRATED EMERGENCY SERVICES

A fully equipped accommodations trailer has been set up and is now operational in Pikangikum, offering a committed space for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) staff to stay while working in-community. This ensures a consistent rotation of paramedics supporting Pikangikum.

EXPANDING SKILLS IN FIRE RESCUE

INTEGRATED EMERGENCY SERVICES

IFNA Regional Fire Rescue (RFR) has been working closely with the Ontario Fire Marshal and Fire College to ensure we have provincially and nationally recognized training and supports that can be passed on to community members as we grow and develop capacity. In July and August, RFR members trained in onboarding for fire skills, radio procedures, auto extrication, ambulance familiarization, forcible entry and more. Additionally, milestone training was completed in mid-September with the Fire and Life Safety Educator course (NFPA 1035). These training courses will allow us to provide additional services and capacity to our five communities in the future.



RSV SEASON IS COMING - IS YOUR CHILD PROTECTED?

HEALTH SERVICES



As RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) season begins, it is important to ensure that we are prepared to support our youngest members. RSV is a virus with flu-like symptoms that can lead to serious respiratory infections in infants and young children. The RSV season typically peaks in the fall and winter, making it essential to get vaccinated at the beginning of this time.

The Ministry of Health has recently expanded eligibility of individuals to receive the RSV vaccine to infants born on or after January 1, 2024. It is administered as a single dose and is intended to reduce the risk of RSV-related hospitalizations in eligible infants.

By proactively addressing RSV prevention with the vaccine, we can help protect our most vulnerable family members. Please feel free to reach out to IFNA Health Services with any questions or concerns regarding the vaccine or the upcoming season.

PIKANGIKUM MAKING STRIDES IN CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE



In recent months, Pikangikum has announced two new infrastructure projects designed to enhance community services as well as opened an Elders complex.

The first new project is a Cultural Learning & Community Centre intended to include a daycare, food bank, adult learning, and a community hall. This gap-filling project is expected to begin January 2025 and complete by December 2026.

The second project announcement has been long anticipated – the Berens River Bridge &

Road connecting Pikangikum to the provincial road system with a bridge and all-season road. The Honourable Greg Rickford, Ontario Minister of Northern Development as well as Minister of Indigenous Affairs visited Pikangikum in August to announce its plan to partner with Whitefeather Forest Community Resource Management Authority and Canada on the project.

On October 16, 2024, Pikangikum Health Authority held the grand opening of the Knowledge Keepers Elders Complex intended to support Elders' needs with culturally appropriate support based on their individual needs.



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