

BIG GRASSY RIVER FIRST NATION NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2020

mishkosiminiziibiing

**Big Grassy River
First Nation**



Our way.
Our home.

Boozhoo! The Chief and Council would like to wish the members of Big Grassy River First Nation a Happy Holiday season and a Merry Christmas. Please remember to stay healthy and safe by following all the current recommended public health measures throughout this current Covid-19 pandemic.

Please continue to wash your hands frequently, stay home as much as you can, and wear a mask when outside your home. It is our goal to remain as covid free as possible and it takes a whole community effort to take care of each other.

We would like to also extend an appreciation to all the staff for their continued efforts in delivering their mandated programs and services to the membership.

Miigwech,
Chief Lynn Indian
Councillor Deb Ludeman
Councillor Elvis Adams
Councillor Glenn Archie
Councillor Jeff Morrison



REDUCE YOUR RISK OF **COVID-19** INFECTION



WASH HANDS

Wash your hands with soap or use a hand sanitiser



SOCIAL DISTANCING

Keep a distance of around 1 meter away from others in public



COVER A COUGH OR SNEEZE

Cover your cough or sneeze with your sleeves or tissues. Dispose the tissue and wash hands afterwards



STAY AT HOME

Always stay home unless you have an important reason to leave the house

COMMUNITY NEWS & UPDATES

Flood Claim Report as of November 30th, 2020

Background

*Flooding of Big Grassy River First Nation reserves began in 1887 when the first dam was built at Kenora. Big Grassy is negotiating its flooding claim together with Ojibway's of Onigaming because the two First Nations used to be one band- the **ASSABASKA BAND**. Big Grassy and Onigaming filed their claims for flooding damage in the 1990's and began negotiating with Canada and Ontario since September 2009.*

In 2018, Big Grassy, Onigaming, Ontario and Canada signed an Agreement in Principle on compensation. The compensation package provided amounts for past losses, on-going authorization for flooding of the reserves (flooding easement), and other matters. The agreed-upon compensation amount assumed that the claim would be settled by December 31, 2018. Bureaucratic delays meant that claim was not settled by the end of 2018, so the Crown governments agreed to update the compensation to the end of 2019. Delays continued, and by the end of 2019, the claim still wasn't settled.

Current Status

Canada has recently agreed to update the compensation amounts again, until June 2021. Ontario has not yet committed to yet to a further update, so right now Ontario's settlement amount only covers up to the end of 2019.

The two biggest causes of delay have been: 1. The easement surveys; and 2. The process for confirming that the islands within the easement area are part of the reserves. For over a year, Ontario refused to accept the surveys. Earlier in June, Ontario finally agreed to accept the surveys, Confirmation of the islands remain outstanding.

Other matters that need to be taken care of before the settlement can be finalized and compensation can be paid are: drafting of the legal documents (Settlement Agreement and Easement Agreements), obtaining consent of the CP Lot Holder's affected by the easement, developing a community Trust, and a community approval by ratification vote.

Expected Time Frames

Canada has told us that they will likely be finished their approval process for the updated compensation by November 2020. In the meantime, the Big Grassy and Onigaming negotiation teams, legal counsel, and advisors will be working hard to finalize all outstanding issues so that ratification process can be begin as soon as Canada's compensation approvals are complete, with the community votes held hopefully in June or July 2021. Compensation can be paid 75 days (about 2.5 months) after the First Nations, Canada and Ontario sign the settlement agreement following the community votes.

Further Questions?

If you have any further questions, about the Flooding Claim, please call Glenn Archie, Head Negotiator at Esiniwab Health Center at 807-488-5457 Ext 1005. Or email at gkarchie@hotmail.com

COMMUNITY NEWS & UPDATES

New Band Manager

Dear Big Grassy River First Nation Members:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for having me in your community as the new Band Manager. It is with pride and optimism that I work to serve the membership of your nation.

To better introduce myself... I am a very proud member of Couchiching First Nation – although for the past twenty years, have resided in Manitoba with my husband Bruce. We are now both excited to relocate back to my home territory.

My little family - I am a Mom to four grown children, Grandma to three beauty babies and also have four dogs that complete our home.

I look forward to working with the members in continuing to create new initiatives, model positives, and working with all my colleagues to achieve success for Big Grassy River First Nation

Please feel free to drop in to my office and say hello, my door is open!

And....YES, I GOLF!

Barb Hambleton 

CCP Logo Contest

The Big Grassy River First Nation Comprehensive Community Plan has launched a Logo Contest. It is open to all Big Grassy River First Nation Youth aged 14 to 24 - On and Off-Reserve.

Entries will have a chance to win a laptop computer, with a entry **deadline of December 15, 2020** and the winner chosen on December 17th, 2020.

For more information contact:

Daryl Archie

CCP Coordinatator

Ph: 807-488-5614 Ext. 1002

darylarchie@hotmail.com

Be creative...be unique...

WIN A LAPTOP

Just in time for Christmas!



Big Grassy River First Nation
Comprehensive Community Plan
LOGO CONTEST

Open to all Big Grassy River First Nation Youth
ages 14 to 24 - On and off-reserve.

**ENTER THE CONTEST FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A
LAPTOP COMPUTER!!!**

**THEME IDEAS: About Community, Health, Education,
Language and Culture, Land and Nature,
Communications, Economic Development**

BE CREATIVE BE UNIQUE

**ENTRY DEADLINE: DECEMBER 15, 2020
WINNER WILL BE CHOSEN DECEMBER 17, 2020**

For more info. contact:
Daryl Archie, CCP Coordinator
Ph: 807-488-5614 Ext:1002
daryl.archie1@hotmail.com

COMMUNITY NEWS & UPDATES

Santa Claus is Coming to Big Grassy River First Nation

With the support of the Big Grassy Band Office, the Community Care Program (CCP), Pegamigaabo School, the Youth Mobilization Group, the Health Centre, and the Mishkosiminiziibiing Development Corporation (MDC) Santa Claus will be coming to Big Grassy First Nation!

Departing at **6 PM on Wednesday, December 16th, 2020** there will be a Christmas parade travelling throughout the community. Prizes for Best Float (1st, 2nd & 3rd) will be given out - so be creative and have fun with your entries. Santa will be there with gifts for the kids when he passes by and Christmas hampers for each family!



2020 Christmas House Decorating Contest Announced

MDC & Big Grassy Youth Council are hosting this year's 2020 Christmas house decorating contest. It is taking place at the Big Grassy First Nation on December 21, 2020 with judging taking place at 6 PM. Check out the great prizes so make sure you get entered!

- 1st - \$1,000.00
- 2nd - \$800.00
- 3rd - \$600.00
- 4th - \$400.00
- 5th - \$200.00
- 6th - \$100.00

Submit your House or Lot Number to Alayla Paypompee or Tina Paypompee at (807) 488-5614 or the MDC Office at (807) 488-5554.





Your Flu Vaccine Protects Me My Flu Vaccine Protects You

- It is more important than ever this year, with COVID-19, that you get your flu shot.
- The flu vaccine is safe. You can't get the flu from a flu vaccine.
- Please get a flu vaccine each year to protect you and your family.

Contact your Community Health Nurse @ 274-2042 for more information.

COVID-19 STRESS AND SLEEP

The stress and worry accompanied with the COVID-19 crisis can have a negative impact on individual's quality of sleep. It is important to maintain and achieve a good sleep throughout this crisis. Here are some tips:

Decrease blue light exposure before bed.

The blue light emitted by your electronics can affect sleep inducing hormones and increase alertness. Try reading a book before bed!

Keep a consistent sleep/wake routine.

It is easy to fall out of our prior work/school routines during this time. However, it is important to keep structure and routine, especially when it comes to sleep.

Avoid caffeine consumption in the evening.

Caffeine is known to increase alertness and affect your body's ability to relax. Try drinking decaffeinated coffee or tea!



Make time for exercise.

Exercise plays a role in how we sleep at night. It is important to try and get 30 minutes of exercise per day. This can include walking, biking, or at home workouts.

Increase bright light exposure.

Getting sunlight exposure during the day helps increase your energy during the day and improves sleep at night!

Limit your exposure to COVID-19 news.

It is important to be aware of the current events in the news, however, constant exposure can become overwhelming. Limit your exposure by selecting one news source or only checking the news at certain times a day.



FORT FRANCES TRIBAL AREA HEALTH SERVICES

GRAND COUNCIL TREATY #3 AND SHOONIYAA WA-BIITONG PRESENTS

TREATY #3 VENDORS ONLINE

Online Craft Sales

NOVEMBER 18 - DECEMBER 22, 2020
TREATY #3 VENDORS ONLINE FACEBOOK EVENT PAGE

For more information please contact:
Cairo Copenace | haa@treaty3.ca | 807-548-4214
Maryam Seid | syrcoordinator@shoonyaa.org | 1-800-545-5113 ext. 200

"POST AND SELL"



Fort Frances Tribal Area
HEALTH SERVICES

Behavioural Health Services Crisis line

Now available Monday to
Friday 8:30 a.m -10:30 p.m

807-271-0212

Speak directly with one of our Mental
Health Clinicians/Support Staff



"You are not alone in this"



Principal's Greeting

Thanks for considering us in the first edition of the newsletter for Big Grassy River.

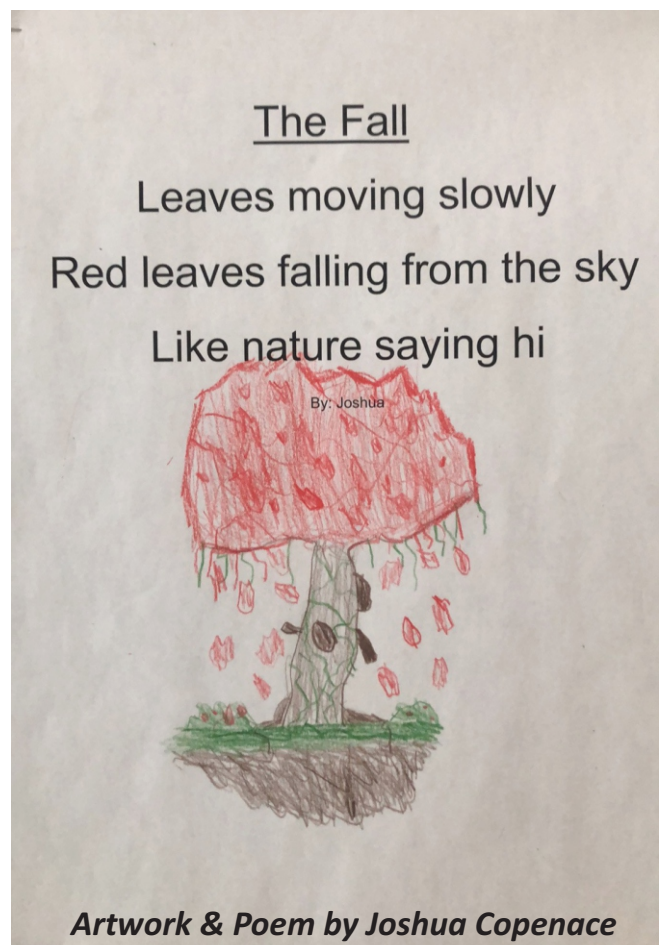
The beginning of the school year had us wondering if we would have a "school" but as stringent Covid-19 protocols have been in place, we've seen 95% engagement with school. Having students in cohorts has been a challenge but as the challenges come, determination to have teacher/student time has been one of the successes we've seen so far!

Although students time is measured, making those connections with students is of great importance. "Student of the Month" awards were considered and monetary gifts will be given to the mentioned students in this newsletter and rest assured, we are all proud of each and every one of the students who are committed to coming to school.

Let's continue to work together as a community, parents, teachers, and students to create an enriched place of learning at Pegamigaabo school this year!

Warmest greetings to you and your family!

*Clara Major (aka Clare)
Principal Pegamigaabo School*



Students of the Month



Junior/Senior Kindergarten for October - Joshua Seymour

“Joshua had a great first month of school! He has been doing a great job playing with and alongside his classmates, and he is showing interest in lots of different activities and trying out lots of new things.”

Junior/Senior Kindergarten for November - Bella Starr

“Bella started taking the bus by herself this month and is doing a great job at it in class, she is working hard with Mr. Johnson and Courtney. Bella is more confident at communicating with the other children in our class and is making friends.”

Grade 1 for October and November - Kalee

“Kalee attends school everyday. She works hard and is not afraid to figure things out on her own. She works well with other kids in the class. Way to go Kalee!!!”

Grade 2 for October and November - Rylee and Morgan

“They haven’t missed a day of school!!! Rylee helps her fellow students when they are having trouble understanding a concept. Morgan makes sure everyone is included when doing small group work! They are true leaders of the classroom...way to go girls!”

Grade 3 for October - S.J. Gordon

“...for his hard work and determination to complete all his tasks each and everyday in class.”

Grade 3 for November - Kaylor Kabestra

“...for his incredible attitude in class, even when things aren’t going his way.”



Grade 4 for October - Talon Adams

“...for working hard at every single subject and continuously seeking out new learning opportunities for himself.”

Grade 4 for November - Kashis Matthews-Copenace

“...for consistently going above and beyond what is expected of him each and every day in class.”

Grade 5 & 6 for October - Logan Jack

“Logan has been an incredible role model for his peers and always puts in his best effort. He comes to school every morning with a smile on his face and a desire to learn. Thank you for all your hard work this month Logan!”

Grade 5 & 6 for November - Joshua Copenace

“Joshua is the student of the month for November. He wrote a beautiful poem that really showcased his talent for writing. He does a fantastic job of staying on task in class, turning his work in on time, and being respectful of both his peers and his teacher. Keep up the great work!”

Grade 7 & 8 for October - Carmen Leonard

“Carmen is more than deserving of being this month’s Student of the Month for October. Carmen is compassionate, kind and has been there for others who need a friend. Congratulations Carmen!”

Grade 7 & 8 for November - Miigwan Smith

“Miigwan comes to class everyday with a desire to learn. She is dedicated to being the best version of herself, and puts a great amount of effort into everything she does. Congratulations Miigwan, keep up the great work!”

CLANS OF BIG GRASSY RIVER FIRST NATION WORD SEARCH

T N C N N H E S Z P N P Z P H I U E H P V Q H N X K D G B M
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 S F I C X I F I N R A M M W V V F G P Y Q W Z N P L M H S

SNAPPING TURTLE	MOOSH-KO-O-SI	ANINI-SHIB	BLUE HERON
BULLHEAD	STURGEON	MIKI-NOK	CARIBOU
AWASII	MALLARD	MIGISI	PI-ZHEW
NUMAY	CRANE	EAGLE	MOOSE
MAKWA	ELK	ATIK	BEAR
LYNX			

Sign up for an email subscription to the Big Grassy River First Nation Newsletter and tell us which Clan is hidden twice in the Word Search below and be entered to win a \$25 Visa Gift Card!!!
 Send your entry to bgrfnnewsletter@gmail.com

OPPORTUNITIES AND JOB POSTINGS

Child-In-Care Worker - Community Care Program

Reporting to the Child Care Supervisor, the Child-In-Care Worker is responsible for the safety and health of the children and families living within the first nation.

Duties:

1. Follows up on referrals concerning the needs of children and families living on the First Nations;
2. Ensures the safety of all children including arranging for out of home placement for children in need of protection;
3. Prepares service plans for all children and families requiring support services;
4. Ensures all cases are documented in accordance with Ministry of Community and Social Service Standards as well as court proceedings;
5. Provides and designs community prevention programs;
6. Provides and coordinates support groups for adolescents, children, single parents, etc;
7. Ensure child and family services delivered to the First Nation are culturally appropriate and consistent with the policies of Big Grassy First nation
8. Rotational On-Call is a requirement.

Primary Qualifications:

Training will be made available.

*Community College Diploma in Social Work or related field and six years' experience in the provision of Child Welfare Services; ***Asset but not Mandatory. Training will be made available.***

*Knowledge of the Ontario Child and Family Services Act;

*Knowledge of Ontario's Risk Assessment Model;

*Knowledge of community services, customs and traditions;

*Valid Driver's License, Drivers Abstract and access to own vehicle;

Salary: Commensurate with experience. PFT 6-month probationary period.

This position is full time with a 6-month probationary period.

POSITION AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY!

Salary: Commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Please send resume along with three work related references to:

*Paul Duguay – Human Resource Officer
Big Grassy River First Nation
P.O. Box 414
Morson, Ontario POW 1J0
Fax – 807-488-5533*

or drop off at: *Big Grassy Band Office
410 Anishinabe Way
Big Grassy River F.N.*

Email-paulbghr@gmail.com

Please note: *Applications will be short-listed in accordance with qualifications and only those applicants granted an interview will be contacted.*

OPPORTUNITIES AND JOB POSTINGS

Education Assistant - Pegamigaabo School

Job Summary

The Education Assistant, under the direction of the principal, will primarily be responsible to address the teachers needs attaining to student questions, focusing on areas of greatest difficulty or challenge as well as any other needs that the Teacher may need assistance with.

Competencies

Attention to Detail - Attends to details and pursues quality in the accomplishment of tasks, regardless of the volume of duties.
Communication - Expresses and transmits information with consistency and clarity.
Compassionate - Shows concern and empathy in a supportive manner to Students
Continuous Improvement - Strives to improve job responsibilities through developing skills and increasing knowledge.
Cultural Sensitivity - Promotes an inclusive environment exemplified by understanding all cultural groups.
Organization - Able to create or maintain processes to ensure all relevant information or tools are easily accessible.
Time Management - Balances a myriad of tasks; prioritizes duties as needed.

Job Duties

Address student questions, focusing on areas of greatest difficulty
Collaborate with other teachers and the education director
Conduct assessment of students' behavioral needs
Ensure compliance with school policies, procedures, and best practices
Generate excitement about key concepts and areas of study
Act as a positive role model
Maintain a safe, clean, welcoming, and positive learning environment at all times
Monitor the safety of students and address any issues relating to harassment, bullying, or discrimination
Participate in professional development activities to improve knowledge and skills
Promote regular school attendance and address truancy issues with students, parents, and/or other teachers
Provide students with moral support and encouragement
Report evidence of child abuse, neglect, self-harm, substance abuse, or other related issues in accordance with school policy
Respond to parent, teacher, and/or student inquiries

Job Requirements

Grade 12 or GED
Broad knowledge of teaching methods
Ability to recognize individual learning styles and the characteristics of learners
Ability to effectively interact with and relate to children in a developmentally appropriate manner
Ability to prioritize and manage conflicting demands
Ability to work individually as well as part of a team
Clean vulnerable sector check
Demonstrated time management skills
High flexibility with strong interpersonal skills that allow one to work effectively in a diverse environment
High level of integrity and work ethic
Strong sense of ethics and the ability to handle sensitive or private information with tact and discretion

Salary: Commensurate with experience. PFT 6-month probationary period.

This position is full time with a 6-month probationary period. POSITION AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY!

Salary: Commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Please send resume along with three work related references to:

Paul Duguay – Human Resource Officer
Big Grassy River First Nation
P.O. Box 414
Morson, Ontario P0W 1J0
Fax – 807-488-5533

or drop off at: Big Grassy Band Office
410 Anishinabe Way
Big Grassy River F.N.

Email-paulbqhr@gmail.com

Please note: Applications will be short-listed in accordance with qualifications and only those applicants granted an interview will be contacted.

OPPORTUNITIES AND JOB POSTINGS

Housing Coordinator - Band Office

Big Grassy First Nation requires a Housing Manager to direct operations of housing projects to provide eligible individuals with housing. The Housing Manager coordinates the construction of affordable housing, ensuring they are timely and up to standard. He/she develops and implements plans for administration of housing project and procedures for making housing assignments, including assessment of current availability and future buildings. The Housing Manager reviews occupancy reports to ensure that applications, selection of tenants and assignment of dwelling units are in accordance with rules and regulations. The Housing Manager is responsible for the oversight of all administrative and management of public housing operations. This includes managing any services -- work program, and utility assistance or properties -- public housing units and apartments on housing lists.

Duties

- Develop, review and implement housing policy
- Ensure all work and activities within department are conducted in a safe and presentable manner
- Develop work order systems to meet the need of the housing dept. for maintenance and renovations
- Prepares project schedules, cost analysis, permits, and bids
- Works with contractors, and construction management firms for selecting and awarding bids
- Assists in developing five year Capital Plans
- Coordinates, manages, and oversees all housing activities to ensure that houses are maintained, rents are collected, files are kept up to date, tenants are adhering to policy as set out in housing policy and tenant agreements
- Works with CMHC and ISC to access funds, do necessary reporting to funders
- Manages costs and budgets
- Directs housing contractors/sub-contractors as necessary
- Works with tenants to ensure that housing inventory is kept in a good standard
- Have knowledge and Inspects and/or assists in inspecting all aspects of construction (e.g. exterior, interior, walls, electrical, roof, concrete, paint, etc.) for ensuring compliance with plans, specifications, according to the BC Provincial Building Codes and/or Federal Building Codes
- Complete reporting requirements to funders.

Qualifications

- Understand the CMHC program, as well as Construction experience
- Knowledge of the community, excellent public relations, oral and written; interpersonal and leadership skills
- Demonstrate ability to work in a team environment with minimal supervision
- Identify performance management goals and have a willingness to learn new skills
- Well-developed planning and organizing abilities
- Ability to deal tactfully with sensitive issues and maintain confidentiality at all times
- Ability to type and efficiently and effectively utilize personal computer; Including Microsoft programs
- Have a valid class G driver's license
- Ability to work in various weather conditions (conduct field assessments).

Salary: Commensurate with experience. PFT 6-month probationary period.

POSITION AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY

Please send resume along with three work related references to:

Paul Duguay – Human Resource Officer
Big Grassy River First Nation
P.O. Box 414
Morson, Ontario P0W 1J0
Fax – 807-488-5533

or drop off at: Big Grassy Band Office
410 Anishinabe Way
Big Grassy River F.N.

Email - paulbqhr@gmail.com

Please note: Applications will be short-listed in accordance with qualifications and only those applicants granted an interview will be contacted.

OPPORTUNITIES AND JOB POSTINGS

Economic Development Officer - Band Office Internal Posting

Big Grassy River First Nation is currently seeking an Economic Development Officer (EDO). The EDO will be responsible for creating an economic environment that is focused on attracting and retaining businesses, including research, marketing and promotion. The EDO is also in charge of developing and managing strategies to stimulate business activity and investment in the Community, and works with internal and external partners to help promote the Community and what it has to offer to residents and visitors.

Key Duties and Responsibilities:

- Maintains relationships and engages in joint projects or initiatives with other organizations engaged in economic development.
- Preparing concept presentations to Chief and Council from time to time to support local ventures.
- Builds relationships with First Nations businesses.
- Manages all aspects of First Nation sponsored initiatives for Economic Development projects including finalizing work plans, training Plans, sourcing of funds and use of funds, preparing documents such as BCR's for Chief and Council approval of projects.
- Prepare Economic Development related funding proposals.
- The Economic Development Officer will report directly to the Band Manager.

Requirements:

- A post-secondary diploma in business administration or commerce, would be ideal.
- Equivalent experience amounting to 3 years' experience in a business environment.
- Comprehensive computer software knowledge including word processing, spreadsheet, power point presentations, and outlook email.

This position is full time with a 6-month probationary period.

POSITION AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY! DUE DATE FOR RESUME December 18, 2020

Salary: Commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Please provide a cover letter, resume and references to the attention of Band Manager, Mrs. Barb Hambleton or Human Resource Officer Paul Duguay. A full job description is available upon request.

Paul Duguay – Human Resource Officer
Big Grassy River First Nation
P.O. Box 414
Morson, Ontario P0W 1J0
Email-humanresource@biggrassy.ca

or drop off at: Big Grassy Band Office
410 Anishinabe Way
Big Grassy River F.N.
Fax – (807)488-5533

Barb Hambleton – Band Manager
Big Grassy River First Nation
P.O. Box 414
Morson, Ontario P0W 1J0
Email-bandmanager@biggrassy.ca

or drop off at: Big Grassy Band Office
410 Anishinabe Way
Big Grassy River F.N.
Fax – (807)488-5533

Please note: Applications will be shortlisted in accordance with qualifications and only those applicants granted an interview will be contacted.

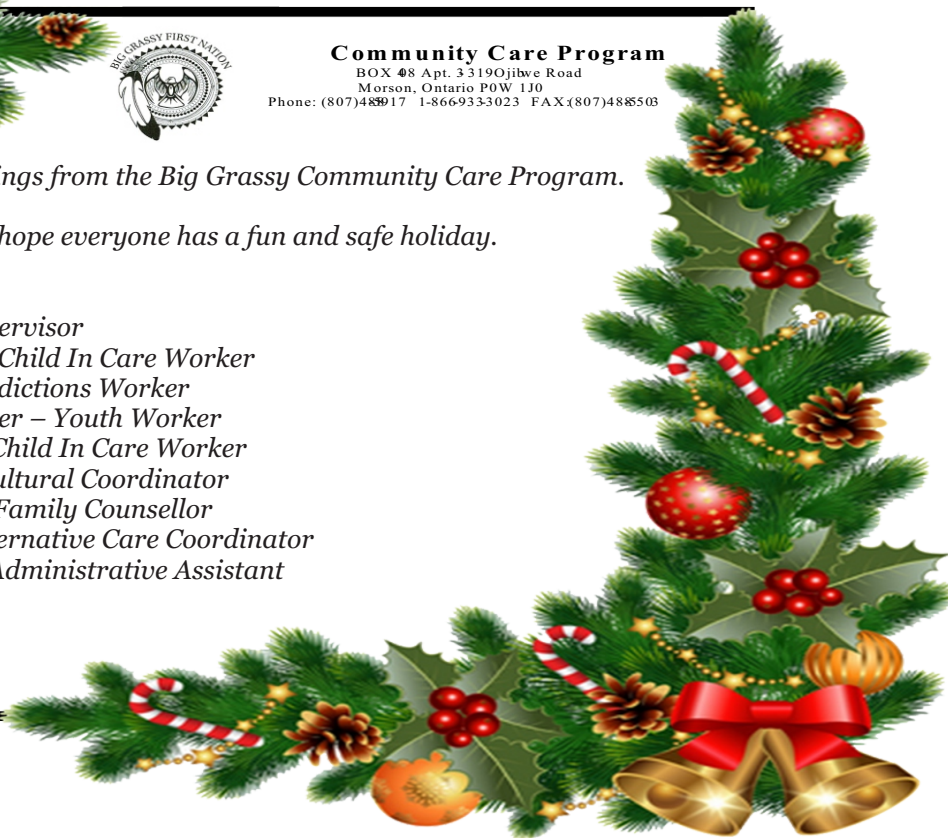


Community Care Program
BOX 48 Apt. 3319 Ojibve Road
Morson, Ontario P0W 1J0
Phone: (807)485917 1-866-933-3023 FAX (807)485503

Seasons Greetings from the Big Grassy Community Care Program.

We hope everyone has a fun and safe holiday.

*Miigwetch,
Tanis Tom – Supervisor
Emily Whetzel – Child In Care Worker
Austin Jack – Addictions Worker
Charmaine Hunter – Youth Worker
Madi Whetzel – Child In Care Worker
Barb Wilson – Cultural Coordinator
Deb Ludeman – Family Counsellor
Alison Tom – Alternative Care Coordinator
Rochelle Jack – Administrative Assistant*



MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT!

Voting for Big Grassy First Nation Chief & Councillors, Trustees for the AH-SHOO-GUN TRUST, and Trustees for the KIITAKIINAAN TRUST will take place at:

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7TH, 2021

From 9 AM to 8 PM

at the

BIG GRASSY FIRST NATION COMMUNITY HALL

If you have any questions, please call Renae Bodnarchuk
at (807) 274-9107 or (807) 275-8564



MISHKOSIMINIZIIBING

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Boozhoo and Christmas cheers from the gang at MDC,

On behalf of the MDC board and staff we like to wish everyone a fun filled festive season despite the challenges we face with COVID-19. At MDC this year was quite a significant growth period and expanded our business enterprises to a variety of sectors.

Our short-term goals were to establish an investment fund from our successful joint ventures and business partnerships to gain the experience to own and operate BGFN enterprises. We are currently involved with 17 active joint Ventures.

We would like to thank our current and past JV partners:

Running Deer Resources
Tom Veert Contracting
Fusion Capital Corporation
Moly Cop
Dennis Robinson
GFL
Cementation
Sigfusson Northern
Recycle West

Dutchak Scrap Metal
Quadra
Master Baits Sporting Goods
JTJ Contracting
Cardale Trucking
Northern Resource Trucking
Dyno Nobel
Sharebears Laundry Services
D&D Vending

Big Grassy Medical Supplies

BGMS is a supplier of the PPE industry for the wholesale or retail markets. Currently we sell N95, KN95 masks, nitrile medical grade gloves, hand sanitizers, hand wipes, face shields, medical gowns, electrostatic sprayers and safety supplies. We have distributors from China and North American markets for BGMS to offer competitive rates and NIOSH certified products.

Education

At MDC we take great pride on helping our students through bursaries, scholarships, graduation gifts, awards, sporting activities and currently purchasing new computers for their lab. Through our joint venture partnership with Quadra 1 % of NG sales are paid out to the Pegamigaaboo School annually. To date with that successful JV has accumulated over 100k the past two years and will continue to generate funds into the future. Under another agreement with Dyno Nobel the company donates 12k annually for graduation awards and gifts.

(Continued on next page)

We like to announce that we recently donated our MDC Ford Transit van to the school to provide the students and staff with transportation as needed.

Though the challenges are great with COVID-19 we will continue to work with our community volunteers to raise funds for our annual School Fish Derby which we honor the late John Gibbins for his vision for this annual event.

Community Development

As part of the business planning at MDC the staff took on a few projects which are important to the community of BG and decided to get involved head on.

At the moment we're involved with the electrical upgrades at the Assabaska Ojibway Heritage Park totaling \$53,000. MDC contracted Kroeplin Electric to complete the upgrades and completion date will be around the first quarter of 2021. It is our hope that through proposal writing we will be successful allocating grants from various funding sources to offset our cash contributions.

Big Grassy Fisheries

Through the past three years the company has been involved with the purchase of a new ice machine and assisting with the replacement of the fish house docks, ramps and cribs. Also, on the business aspect we developed Big Grassy Fisheries Inc to help our local fishermen pay into their EI benefits from their fish and filleting sales.

Big Grassy Pow-wow

We will remain to be a major contributor to our annual powwow and to make Big Grassy an awesome place to celebrate our heritage and to remember our great elders.

From all of us at MDC we want to wish the BG staff and our FN members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Miigwetch,
From the board and staff at MDC.

MDC Board Members and Staff

President Deb Ludeman
Vice President Allison Finlayson
Secretary Peter Gibbons
Treasurer Laura Gibbins
CEO James Comegan CEO
Executive Assistant/Finance Manager Dailen Tuesday





Season's Greetings From Esiniwab Health Centre!!

It's that time of season as Christmas is fast approaching and we all get the trees and decorations up in hopes of Santa's arrival!!

Lots of great things to come in the new year as for all of us given the pandemic "2020" we have been doing the best we can to move forward in our lives the best way we can and safest way we can.

We ask during this holiday season to please continue to follow safety measures for covid-19 by not doing any unnecessary travelling outside our district and to please keep your social circles small and to make sure that you follow the policies and Recommendations that are in place not only by the community of Big Grassy but as well from the Northwestern Health Unit and Fort Frances Tribal Area Services.

We are in this together and we can get past this together !

From all of us at the Health Centre we wish you a very Merry and Healthy Christmas and a Happy and Joyous New Year !!!

Miigwetch

Yours Truly



James Eastman -Health Director



Christmas Hamper Giveaway!!!



Starting Monday, December 7th enter your name each time you visit Esiniwab Health Centre for a chance to win our SUPER packed Christmas Hamper! The draw will take place on December 18th.

Please be advised that you must be a community member living on reserve in order to win.

If you have any questions please call the Health Centre.

Good luck to all!!!

We hope you have enjoyed this edition of the Big Grassy River First Nation Newsletter. If you would like to receive future issues electronically via e-mail or have a copy mailed to you please send us a message at bgrfnnewsletter@gmail.com with the subject line subscribe.

If you have any announcements, birthdays, memorials, events, workshops, suggestions or any other content ideas send them to bgrfnnewsletter@gmail.com The next edition will be out in the New Year!

We wish everyone a healthy, safe, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Miigwech,
Allen*

PLEASE NOTE:
The schedule is subject to change depending upon community needs and activities

DECEMBER 2020

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
30 Rainy River First Nation - Carolyn	1 Immunization Workshop - Beth, Heather, Nicki Onigaming - Jackie	2 Immunization Workshop - Beth, Heather, Nicki Office - Beth	3 Immunization Workshop - Beth, Heather, Nicki Onigaming - Jackie Seine River - Carolyn	4 CPR Course - Beth Nigigoosimikaaning - Heather Lac La Croix - Nicki Office - Heather, Carolyn
7 Office - Beth, Carole, Jackie	8 Mishkosiminzibing- Beth Mitaanigaming- Heather Onigaming - Carole Rainy River First Nations- Carolyn 12 to 7 pm	9 Office - Heather, Carolyn, Nicki	10 Anishinaabeg of Naongashing- Beth Lac La Croix - Nicki Nigigoosimikaaning- Heather Onigaming - Carole Seine River- Carolyn	11 Office - BEth, Carole, Jackie
14 Office - Heather, Carolyn, Nicki	15 Anishinaabeg of Naongashing- Beth Onigaming - Carole Rainy River First Nations- Carolyn	16 Office - Beth, Carole, Jackie Mitaanigaming - Heather	17 Lac La Croix- Nicki Mishkosiminzibing- Beth Nigigoosimikaaning- Heather Onigaming - Carole Seine River- Carolyn	18 Office - Heather, Nicki
21 Closed	22 Closed	23 Closed	24 Closed	25 Closed
28 Closed	29 Closed	30 Closed	31 Closed	January 1 Closed

Due to COVID-19, pre-screening is required prior to any appointment. Walk-ins are discouraged during this time, so please contact your Community Health Nurse to arrange an appointment.

Fort Frances Tribal Area Health Services Community Health Nurses

Anishinaabeg of Naongashing
Mishkosiminzibing
Beth Freeman-Wroblestad, RN
Onigaming
Seine River
Rainy River First Nations
Carolyn Kozlowski, RN
Carole Easton, RN
Carole Sandelovich, RN
Nicole Sandelovich, RN
Mitaanigaming
Nigigoosimikaaning
Heather Sinclair, RN