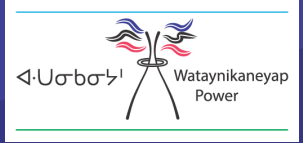




Wataynikaneyap Transmission System & Opiikapawiin Services



Wataynikaneyap Power is majority owned at 51% by 24 First Nations in partnership with Fortis Inc. and other private investors at 49%. Wataynikaneyap, Opiikapawiin, Valard (the Transmission System’s Engineering, Procurement and Construction contractor), and Eptcon/Powertel, a subsidiary of Cormorant Services (the Project Inspection, Maintenance, and Emergency Response Contractor) are working together to maximize Indigenous Participation on the Wataynikaneyap Power transmission system.

Opiikapawiin Services LP is 100% owned by 24 First Nations and provides the following services to Wataynikaneyap Power:

- Employment and training
- Community readiness
- Business readiness
- Community engagement
- Communication

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Do you have a question or concern about Wataynikaneyap Power and/or the transmission system?

Phone: 807-577-5955 ext. 117
 (don't forget to leave your contact information!)
Email: watayinquiries@wataypower.ca

Your question or concern will be sent to the appropriate person or department. We will follow up with an answer or more information as quickly as we can!

Stay Safe around the Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission System!

Can I safely climb a steel tower?

NO.

The transmission system was designed and built to be safe, but best practice is to always keep a safe distance.

Some towers, especially those closer to communities, have fences and anti-climbing measures. Even if not fenced, best practices should be followed.

Never try to climb a tower.



Can I safely enter a substation?

NO.

Substation technicians and maintenance crews are trained to work in high voltage situations and to recognize and avoid potential hazards. They are the only people who can enter a substation safely.

Substations are protected from unauthorized entry with a wire fence and barbed wire. Substation fences are marked with either "Danger" or "Warning High Voltage" signs.

The 22 substations on the Wataynikaneyap Power transmission system were designed and built to be safe, but best practice is to always keep a safe distance from the fence.



Can I use the Right of Way as a travel corridor?

The Right of Way was not designed to be a road or trail. Operating motorized vehicles on the Right of Way is hazardous.

Risks of travelling on the Right of Way include:

- Different terrain – unnatural dips and hills
- Stumps or other wood debris
- Guy wires, anchored to the ground, and tower foundations
- Increased risk if the infrastructure is damaged or during extreme weather



Does the transmission system affect seasonal hunting, trapping, fishing, or harvesting?

The Wataynikaneyap Power transmission system does not interfere with seasonal hunting, trapping, fishing, or harvesting.

It is best to always keep a safe distance from the towers and guy wires and be mindful that workers may be in the area.

Please note there may be temporary restrictions on accessing the Right of Way on certain sections of the line when workers may be in the area for Inspection, Maintenance, and Emergency Response (IMER); vegetation management; environmental monitoring; or other groundwork activities.

Wataynikaneyap Power is working with all First Nations to identify important cultural/traditional activities and dates that should be avoided for groundwork activities.



Will my access to the Right of Way ever be restricted?

For the safety of all, there may be temporary restrictions on accessing the Right of Way on certain sections of the line when workers may be in the area for Inspection, Maintenance, and Emergency Response (IMER); vegetation management; environmental monitoring; or other groundwork activities.

CAUTION

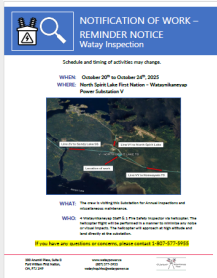
**FOLLOW
INSTRUCTIONS!**

Stay Safe around the Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission System!

How do I know if there are workers in my area?

Notifications

To see if groundwork is scheduled when you plan to be on the land, Wataynikaneyap Power provides First Nation leadership with an advanced notice, and a reminder notice, by email with what work will be done in your area. Details include how many crew members will be there and if work will be done by ground crew or by helicopter.

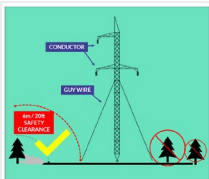


How do I stay safe while harvesting wood near the Right of Way?

To avoid accidental contact with the line and guy wires while harvesting trees, do not cut any trees which could fall within 6 metres (20 feet) of transmission lines, towers or guy wires.

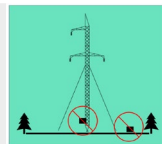
The Right of Way is 40 metres (132 feet), with 20 metres (66 feet) on each side of the transmission line.

Do not cut any trees on the Right of Way.



Can I set traps on the Right of Way?

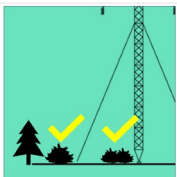
Traps should not be set directly on the Right of Way.



Are plants and berries growing near the transmission system safe to eat?

Yes, plants and berries growing near the transmission system are safe to use and eat.

As per the Guiding Principles, no herbicides are used to control vegetation on the Right of Way.



Can I set up a temporary tent or shelter on the Right of Way?

Shelters should not be set up on the cleared Right of Way, because of numerous hazards, including the increased risk of lightning.



Who should I tell before starting work around the transmission system?

If you are planning work around the transmission system, such as road construction, or hauling oversized loads under the line, contact Wataynikaneyap Power (**1-800-577-5955**) before you start. Wataynikaneyap Power will confirm the voltage of the line and what clearance is needed. Workers need to understand the hazards of working near high voltage lines.

Wataynikaneyap Power provides "Public Working in Proximity to Energized Power Lines" health and safety presentations to Participating First Nations.



What should I do if I see damage on the transmission system?

If you see any damage, like a fallen tower or conductor (wire), do not approach. Call Hydro One Remote Communities at **1-888-825-8707** as soon as you are safely away from the transmission line and inform them where you were and what you saw. Always treat damaged transmission towers and conductors like they are dangerous and energized. Stay at least 10 metres (33 feet) away.



Elders Reflections on the 25-Year Vision of Ownership



Elders Saggius and Elizabeth Rae, along with Gerry and Rebecca McKay, were invited to share their thoughts and memories about the 25-year vision of full community ownership of the Wataynikaneyap Transmission System. They reflected on four guiding questions—speaking about teachings, experiences, and hopes for future generations. Assistance with translation was provided by John Cutfeet.

Miigwetch to our Elders for sharing wisdom, memories, and teachings that will continue to guide us towards full ownership and self-determination.

1. Can you share a memory of how electricity (or the lack of it) affected your community in earlier years?

Saggius: “Today they are able to hook up all the houses. Before, the houses would be standing there for about two years because they couldn’t be hooked up. Another thing we have is Christmas lights; people go to my youngest brother’s house just to look at his Christmas lights. Electricity also helps our businesses, stores, airports, and schools, as they are able to keep their lights on rather than half off. The nursing station is also better able to save peoples’ lives. I am so glad electricity came to Deer Lake.

Elizabeth: “I remember using homemade candles. My dad got a thing of naphtha oil and gas, and we were scared when he lit it up. When the electricity came into the community, they used a generator to hook up the house for light. With the electricity, then came TV, where they used the VHS tapes. More things started arriving in the community when we got an airport. They then built lines to hook up the homes in the community, and they used a generator to provide light for the school that was built. After that, the nursing station was built, which had its own generator. Stores also ended up having their own generator. Then Deer Lake talked about hooking up the whole community, and now that has happened. Deer Lake also had a hydroelectric dam that was built for them on the Severn River, which was used to subsidize the electricity required in the community. The new line has enabled us to hook up more things in our homes and that is what I like about it. Sometimes I think back to the struggles our grandparents had, but as I recall, life was good. Our grandparents were very inventive with some of the things they used to ensure that their lifestyle was supported and had their different ways to make their lives more comfortable.”

Rebecca: “Back then we used our campfires for light when living on the land in teepees. We always used the firelight to light our homes. Later, we had candles, and those came into play. It wasn’t until they started building houses that they needed lights for that. Afterwards, we began to use gasoline called naphtha to light our homes and would get more of it from the Hudson’s Bay post at Big Beaver House. We also used fish oil for lights; we used metal containers, put fish oil in them, and made a wick out of cloth to use as a lamp. I started hearing that there would be electricity one day but it wasn’t until people moved into the community together that they started getting the idea of electricity. In Wunnumin, once they built the airport, they started hooking up some of the homes.”

Gerry: “Most of my life, I’ve had electricity. But I remember going to other communities and asking people, ‘In order to be healthy, what would you want?’ In Kasabonika, people said, ‘A nice warm cabin and a stream close by, and I’ll be happy.’ Then in Big Trout, the answers were different. People said, ‘A warm house, electricity, and running water.’ It’s the exposure to life outside that changed what people said they needed. Older people were content to live a simple life, but electricity changed what we thought of as a good life.”

2. What teachings or values do you believe are most important to guide the communities as they move from partnership to full ownership?

Saggius: “I believe there needs to be good education for our young people. Not only school, but education from Elders, parents, and each other. When I was young, my mother, father, grandpa, and grandma taught me things. We need to keep that value alive. When I go home, I think about teaching my grandsons how to set a net on the lake. I teach them to cut wood. I teach them how to build a shelter; how high to make it, when to put it down. Teaching our kids our way of life is very important. Sometimes young people call me and ask me to show them how to set a net, and I always say sure. They’re quick learners. If we don’t teach our young people, we’re going to lose those teachings. I also learned its important to say ‘I love you.’ ; our people don’t often say that.

Elizabeth: “I think about our children and grandchildren. They have to go to school so they can take over running the Watay line. They need to be taught how to maintain it. I always tell my grandchildren to get a good education so they can get a good job and live a good life. We often tell our grandchildren that we work with Wataynikaneyap. When we go on the boat, we see the line and tell them I am grateful for the line that has been made for us. We remind them how they are able to use all the things we have in our homes because of it. I encourage them to live a good life and get a good education so they can help run Wataynikaneyap.

Rebecca: “When I was growing up, we were taught we had to work – cut wood, set nets, trap, get water, and look after ourselves. My father told us when we get a house, we have to look after it and care for it. He told us one day we would have our own tools, boats, and motors and we’d have to look after them properly. When it comes to looking at the Wataynikaneyap line, we have to teach our children to maintain what was built for them. It was made for them, so they have to look after it. That’s what we need to teach them.”

Gerry: “I was on council for 20 years. One thing I noticed is that people sometimes expect things to be done for them because they’ve been under others’ control for so long. Ownership takes time. As an example, I remember when people first started calling it ‘our school’ in Big Trout; which was after four years, that was when I knew they were starting to see it as theirs. It’ll be the same with the transmission line. We need patience, education, and responsibility. People will learn to say, ‘this is ours,’ and then they’ll take care of it.”

3. What does the 25-year vision of full community ownership of the Wataynikaneyap Transmission Line mean to you – in terms of the changes, opportunities, and benefits it will bring for Elders, families, and future generations?

Saggius: “The 25-year vision is great. What I would like is for our young people to get educated and for them to become electricians, engineers, and business managers, and give them the chance to work for Wataynikaneyap. But, I think anyone who has a good education should be able to come work for us, not just Native people.”

Elizabeth: “Education is so important. There are different trades that will be required for a person to work on Watay, and I would like for them to get educated. It’s important to instill that and make sure they keep going with their education.”

Rebecca: “Things are changing. Only if we are disciplined will we be able to look after this line with the teachings on how to do it. We have to be taught and go to school to learn how to maintain and look after the line. Elders also need to pass on that teaching to other Elders and to future generations. If we pass on those teachings today, we need to start now. The only way it will work is if a person is taught continuously and reminded over and over and people have to be taught how to care for what they were given. It is important that Elders are part of all this.”

Gerry McKay: Indigenize. Watay also needs to develop a good, incentivized program.

4. If you could leave one message for future generations about the Wataynikaneyap line, what would it be?

Saggius: “Read the bible, that is where you will get your life lessons.”

Elizabeth: “Be cautious, and proceed with caution (Ayaakwamizin)”

Gerry: “Kanawayandan D’aaki (the Anishinabe and Anishinnuwug Land Ethic).”

6 Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission System Employment, Training

Employment

Interested in any of the below job postings?
Visit www.oslp.ca/careers OR email projectjobs@oslp.ca



As part of Cormorant's commitment to Reconciliation, general employment opportunities within Cormorant are regularly communicated to several Indigenous organizations, including Opiikapawiin Services and Wataynikaneyap Power. These positions are generally based in either Cambridge, ON or Whitefish, ON, with various travel requirements depending on the position. Members of the 24 Participating First Nations are encouraged to apply for the following positions:

Company	Positions
EPTCON/POWERTEL (A Cormorant Utility Services Company)	Accepting applications for Electricians and Powerline Technician Apprenticeships

Sign up to the Wataynikaneyap Labour Pool Database! The Labour Pool Database is a recruitment tool that was designed with the 24 Participating First Nations in mind for employment on the Wataynikaneyap Powerline Transmission Project. Currently there are over 1000 PFN members in the database!

To be eligible and make the most of your Labour Pool profile, you must: be member or resident of one of the 24 PFN Wataynikaneyap communities; Ensure that your profile is continually updated with your latest skills, certifications, and contact information (as Opiikapawiin usually refers to the database for members who may be a good fit for upcoming positions); and give permission for your information to be shared with potential employees.

Sign up at: <https://www.oslp.ca/labour-pool/> OR Scan the QR Code!

If you need assistance with creating or updating your resume, navigating the Wataynikaneyap Labour Pool Database, applying for a job, or if you have any questions regarding employment or apprenticeships, please contact OSLP's:

Workforce Development Planning Advisor
Office: (807) 474-3300 ext. 210 OR E-mail: contact@oslp.ca



Training

Please be advised that training programs related to the Wataynikaneyap Project are not scheduled at this time until further notice.

Calling all OSLP Trainees! For the chance to win a prize, please fill out the Employment Status Questionnaire at this link:

www.oslp.ca/training-participants

If you have any questions with regards to training matters, please contact OSLP:

Office: (807) 474-3300

Rural Change Makers



The Rural Change Makers Program is a transformative 12-month leadership experience for young adults (ages 18–35) who are ready to make a real difference—in their own lives and in their communities. Up to 40 emerging leaders will participate in a dynamic mix of virtual learning labs, immersive in-person gatherings, and real-world skill application. Recruitment opens Spring 2026!

Fill out an expression of interest form here: <https://www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/changemakersapplication>
OR Contact Melanie Bidiuk at: mbidiuk@ruralontarioinstitute.ca

Cross Cultural Training – October 2, 2025



Opiikapawiin Services LP provided a Cross Cultural Refresher training session – Nihisitotamaakewin (“An Understanding”) to Opiikapawiin Services and Wataynikaneyap Power employees on October 2, 2025. The training provides learning from Indigenous Knowledge Holders from the Participating First Nations communities, and includes 15 topics covered through storytelling from the Knowledge Keepers and Elders.

Repatriation of Artifacts – Muskrat Dam October 15, 2025



Archaeological studies conducted between 2019 and 2022 identified three cultural heritage sites along the Muskrat Dam section of the Wataynikaneyap Power Project. While most of the 86 new tower locations showed no archaeological potential, one site yielded stone tools and lithic debris on the Severn River bank. Earlier Golder excavations at nearby uncovered Middle- to Late Woodland artifacts, including pottery and scrapers, underscoring the region’s longstanding human presence. Protective buffers, seasonal construction protocols, and continued communication and engagement with Muskrat Dam First Nation ensured these important cultural landscapes remained safeguarded for future generations. Archaeologists from WSP categorized and made display cases with the artifacts found and they were repatriated to Muskrat Dam on October 15, 2025 during a community visit.

Vegetation Management Engagement



Wataynikaneyap Power is engaging on the Project activities that will be occurring in the Operations and Maintenance stage of the Wataynikaneyap Transmission System, including vegetation management.

The Wataynikaneyap Power/OSLP team travelled to Wawakapewin First Nation on September 14 (above), and Muskrat Dam on October 15, 2025 (page 9) to engage on Vegetation Management, as well as to present an update on the Project Status.

Vegetation Management is promoting growth & managing vegetation height to avoid damage to lines, towers, and substations; avoid power outages caused by trees; and ensure adequate access for maintenance and emergency response.



Margaret Kenequanash presents a gift to Chief Anne Marie Beardy in appreciation for welcoming Wataynikaneyap Power to Wawakapewin First Nation.

Wataynikaneyap Power and Opiikapawiin Services will be continuing to reach out to Participating First Nation and First Nation businesses to coordinate ongoing business and employment opportunities in operations; particularly in the areas of vegetation management, environmental monitoring, and maintenance of access trails and landing areas.

Wataynikaneyap will develop the Vegetation Management Plan through:

- Continuous Engagement with the PFN's
- Electrical Utilities best practices
- Lessons learned through original clearing of the Right-of-Way

Vegetation Management Engagement

The Vegetation Management plan is a plan that Wataynikaneyap will develop through continuous engagement with Participating First Nations (PFN's) to promote growth and manage the height of vegetation to protect assets.

Engagement will:

- Involve continuous dialogue with land-users, community members, First Nation leadership, and Elders;
- Seek to understand how vegetation management should be conducted on your homeland;
- Seek to understand what equipment and resources your First Nation has to complete Vegetation Management Work;
- Respect and Understand Barriers and Needs

Engagement on the vegetation management plan will be ongoing throughout 2024 - 2026, with the initial round of vegetation management on the right-of-way starting in 2026.

(Each line segment will typically need vegetation management on a 5-8 year cycle!)



Margaret Kenequanash thanks Chief Carla Duncan and the community of Muskrat Dam for their warm welcome to Wataynikaneyap Power.



A substation blessing was also completed for Muskrat Dam Substation E on October 15, 2025.



Anishiniimowin Word Spotlight

Substation

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For questions on any engagement matters or to schedule an information session in your community, please contact the Indigenous Participation & Engagement Manager at (807) 474 3300 ext. 202

Business Readiness and Procurement of Goods and Services

If you have questions about business and economic development opportunities, please contact:

OSLP Office:
Office: (807) 474-3300

Business Directory

Opiikapawiin Services LP maintains a business registry that contains Participating First Nation Business Profiles and is referred to as the **Wataynikaneyap Business Directory**. This Directory can be shared with potential contractors and/or subcontractors to help facilitate First Nation business opportunities.

For information on how to register your Participating First Nation business or joint venture, please contact:

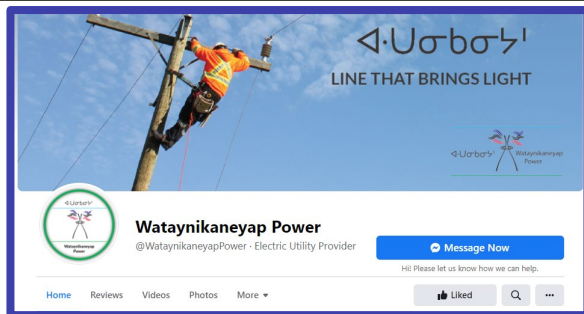
OSLP's Indigenous Participation Coordinator
Office: (807) 474-3300 ext. 262

Opiikapawiin Services LP will be working with First Nations to identify contacts for contracting opportunities and to identify Participating First Nation-owned businesses that can provide:

- Labour
- Equipment
- Fuel Sales
- Accommodations/Meals
- Transportation

There may also be other business opportunities that result from the vegetation management plan!

Wataynikaneyap Power Communications



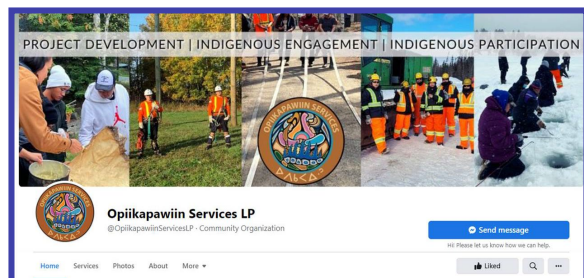
Wataynikaneyap LinkedIn Page:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/wataynikaneyap/>

Wataynikaneyap Power Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/WataynikaneyapPower

- Photos
- Announcements and company updates
- Employment opportunities
- Fact sheets, Videos



Opiikapawiin Services Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/OpiikapawinServicesLP

- Training opportunities with Opiikapawiin and Valard
- Job opportunities with Opiikapawiin, Valard, Wataynikaneyap, and subcontractors (when provided)
- Project announcements and company updates
- Information Flyers

Canadian Consulting Engineering Awards



Wataynikaneyap Power is pleased to announce that the Wataynikaneyap Power transmission system is one of this year's 20 Award of Excellence recipients from Canadian Consulting Engineering. The project was selected from 60 submissions from across the country. Hatch accepted the award as the project engineer. The Wataynikaneyap Power transmission system also received the 'Engineering a Better Future' Award, which recognizes the project that best showcases how engineering enhances the social, economic or cultural quality of Canadians.

Tapestry International Women's Network

Thank you to Thunder Bay's Tapestry International Women's Network for inviting Margaret Kenequanash to be the keynote speaker at your annual gala on October 25!



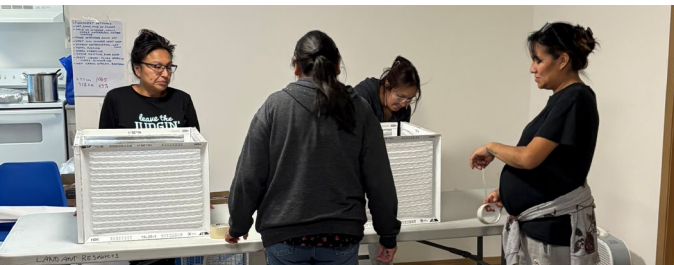
Women's Pilot – Tracking and Understanding Energy



OSLP, funded by IESO (Independent Electrical System Operator), hosted a tracking & understanding energy program for women in Bearskin Lake, North Caribou Lake, Sandy Lake, Keewaywin, Sachigo Lake, Muskrat Dam, and KI! Participants learned:

- How to prevent heat loss in their homes
- The importance of vapor barriers and weather proofing
- Energy habits to save you money
- Home energy safety
- And much more!

Bearskin Lake Community Liaison Terrilyn Meekis shared: "The women who attended the workshop are now helping others with their HRV's (Heat Recovery Ventilators), as these systems weren't explained to us when we first moved into our new homes. This workshop has brought us together as women, encouraging us to support one another.... These types of workshops are essential since we don't always have professionals available in the community to do this kind of work."



We are grateful to all the women who came together through this project to learn, lead and support one another!

Participants learning how to access and operate a residential electrical panel

Participants had the opportunity to build a DIY air filter to improve home air quality

