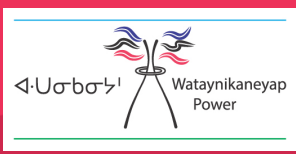


Beautiful photo from Jordan Quequish, taken on Kingfisher Lake Homelands



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!

Wataynikaneyap Power's Mandate, Vision, & Guiding Principles

As Wataynikaneyap transitions into Operations, it has updated and reinvigorated its Mandate, Vision, and Guiding Principles to support the Operations Stage of the Project. The revisions were developed through engagement with Elders, Chiefs, Board Members, and community members. The final drafts were reviewed by the Chiefs (Shareholders) on April 22, 2026 and approved by the Wataynikaneyap Board on April 29, 2026.

Wataynikaneyap Power's Mandate

The Wataynikaneyap Project is located within the Homelands of Treaty 9 and Adhesions; Treaty 3 and Adhesions; and Treaty 5 and Adhesions, through the true spirit and true intent as understood by our Elders. Wataynikaneyap is majority owned by 24 First Nations.

Wataynikaneyap Power and all partners engaged in its work will follow the expectations set forth by the First Nations in the Guiding Principles.

Wataynikaneyap Power's purpose is to operate and maintain safe, reliable power transmission to remote First Nations, while protecting the land, water, animals, and people.

Wataynikaneyap Power can pursue other transmission initiatives, and create synergies with other opportunities, such as fibre optic, road development, and other energy projects, while remaining in compliance with land access protocols.

Wataynikaneyap Power will care for the assets entrusted to us by the People for the benefit of future generations.

Wataynikaneyap Power will have meaningful participation and involvement regarding business and community readiness, capacity building, and workforce development. Wataynikaneyap Power will create equitable and inclusive workplaces through capacity building, community and business readiness opportunities, including land-based learning, health and wellness.

Through ceremony, Wataynikaneyap Power was given the word and will follow aayaakwaamiziiwin – the action to protect the people, lands, animals, and water by being careful and respectful in all aspects of work, and in daily life. Aayaakwaamiziiwin is to be mindful of the consequences of our actions (wholistic view) and to work on the Homelands in a respectful way. This is the natural law and expected actions of the Anishinaabeg and Anishiniwag Peoples, supported by our Partners.

Wataynikaneyap Power will ensure sustainable operations by being fiscally responsible while meeting all compliance requirements and creating a strong equity position.

Wataynikaneyap Power's Mandate, Vision, & Guiding Principles

Anishinaabeg and Anishiniwag Peoples' Vision Statement

The Anishinaabeg and Anishiniwag Peoples have a long-term vision to secure opportunities from the lands and resources while protecting the environment.

The Anishinaabeg and Anishiniwag have responsibilities for land management. The Anishinaabeg and Anishiniwag continue and always will practice all their rights and responsibilities, and to honour and obey *kayaash dodamowin*: the sacred duty and responsibility of *kanawayandan ahkii/kanawayandan d'aaki*. Anishinaabeg and Anishiniwag honour and obey original instructions given to them by the Creator over their lands. According to the laws and customs, management and stewardship of the lands was bestowed by the Creator and not surrendered by Treaty.

The Anishinaabeg and Anishiniwag Peoples hold inherent and Treaty rights, laws and legal orders that exist independently of the Crown and must be honoured and obeyed.

The Anishinaabeg and Anishiniwag People have the right to pursue socio-economic and business opportunities for the benefit of the future generations. This includes meaningful involvement and participation of Participating First Nations in partnership with our Partner, Fortis Inc.

The Participating First Nations' shared vision is to own 100% of Wataynikaneyap Power by 2049.

Wataynikaneyap will continue to evolve as a financially strong, professionally managed, and fully Indigenous-owned utility that provides long term stable revenues to its members while ensuring reliable, sustainable energy to our communities. Our priority must be disciplined financial management, qualified leadership, and strategic growth to protect the asset for future generations.





Anishinaabeg and Anishininiwag Guiding Principles (Operations and Maintenance)

The Anishinaabeg and Anishininiwag Peoples assert that Wataynikaneyap Power and all partners engaged in its work respect the land, rights and natural laws; our way of being on the land and as part of the land; and our land sharing protocols.

Wataynikaneyap Power will embody the Anishinaabeg and Anishininiwag Language, customs, ceremony, and the original teachings of our Elders.

Wataynikaneyap Power will follow the directives from ceremony and from the Peoples. Our original instruction and sacred responsibility given to us by the Creator is to protect the land, which in turn protects us. The Wataynikaneyap Power transmission system will be operated and maintained in a way that protects the environment as follows:

- The transmission system will not poison the ecosystem;
- No herbicides will be used throughout the life of the transmission line;
- The transmission system will be operated and maintained in a manner that does not interfere with seasonal hunting, trapping, fishing and harvesting and keeps disturbances to a minimum;
- No new transmission lines will be located underwater; and
- Wataynikaneyap Power and its operating partners will follow the environmental and social management plan to ensure their work does not affect any sacred, gathering, or harvesting sites or burial sites.

Wataynikaneyap Power will respect confidentiality and comply with any conditions of use for all Traditional Land and Resource Use information provided by the First Nations, including intellectual property and data governance requirements.

The Participating First Nations will maintain decision-making and ownership and receive benefits from Wataynikaneyap Power.

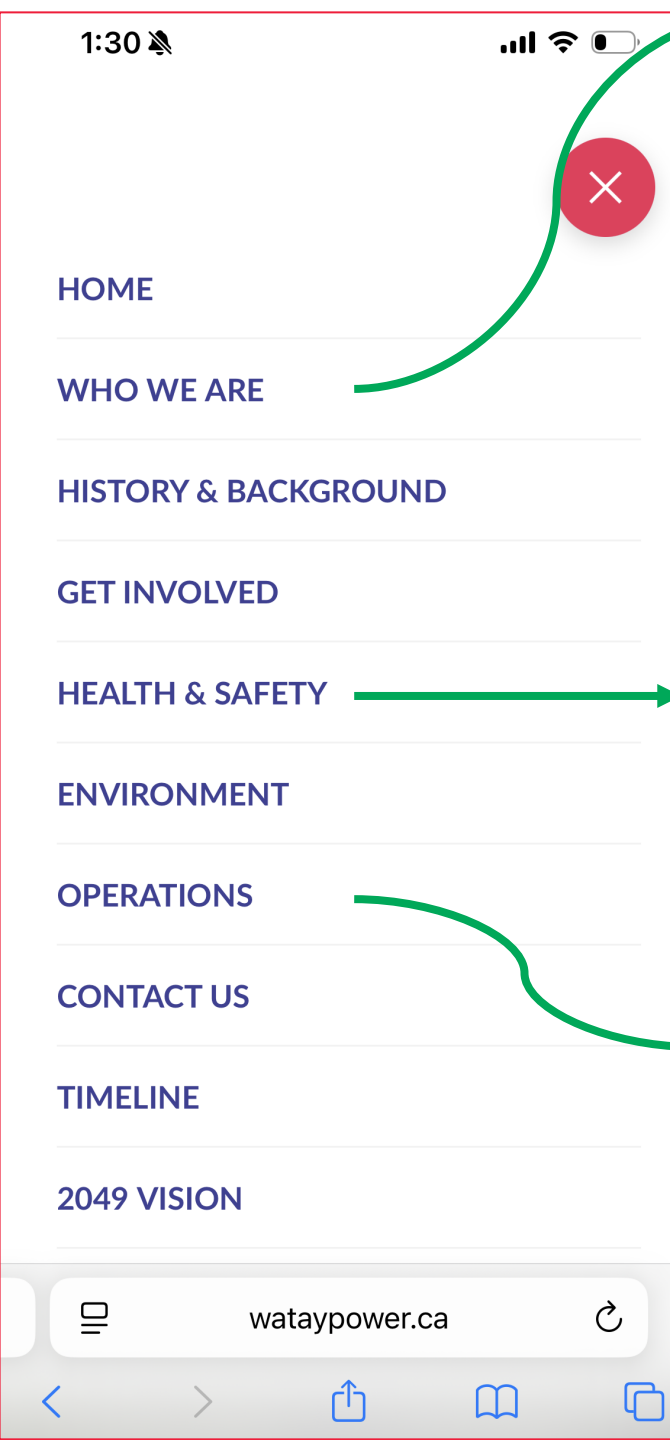
Wataynikaneyap Power will benefit future generations, strengthened through ongoing communication and engagement. Wataynikaneyap Power will ensure succession and transition planning. Wataynikaneyap Power will build capacity and develop the workforce with the Anishinaabeg and Anishininiwag Peoples, the youth, and elementary, primary, secondary, and post-secondary students while remaining in compliance with all reporting requirements.

Wataynikaneyap Power – New Website

Wataynikaneyap Power’s website, www.wataypower.ca, has been remade, refreshed, and reinvigorated! Check it out on your **computer or phone**.

Here are some key areas:

Check out the timeline at www.wataypower.ca/timeline to read about the history of Wataynikaneyap Power.



A vertical timeline graphic with dates and corresponding text. The dates are 2015, 2016, and 2016. The text includes: 'In partnership, the 20 First Nations, as 2472881 Ontario Limited, sign the Wataynikaneyap Shareholders Agreement with Fortis (WPI) GP Inc. and Renewable Energy Systems Canada Inc. (RES).', 'RES's interest in the project was acquired by Fortis Inc. in 2016.', 'Opikapawin Service LP/GP evolves from First Nation Services Organization (FNSO).', 'Opikapawin Services is primarily responsible for administering projects and programs for Wataynikaneyap Power relating to community engagement, community readiness, education and training, business readiness, stakeholder engagement, communications, and capacity building.', 'The Ontario Energy Board designates Wataynikaneyap Power as the transmission company to construct the transmission line to Pickle Lake and extend the transmission system north from Red Lake and Pickle Lake.', 'The connection of 16 remote First Nations to the provincial power grid is designated as a Priority Project.'

Learn about how to stay safe around the transmission system here: www.wataypower.ca/health-safety/power-transmission-safety/

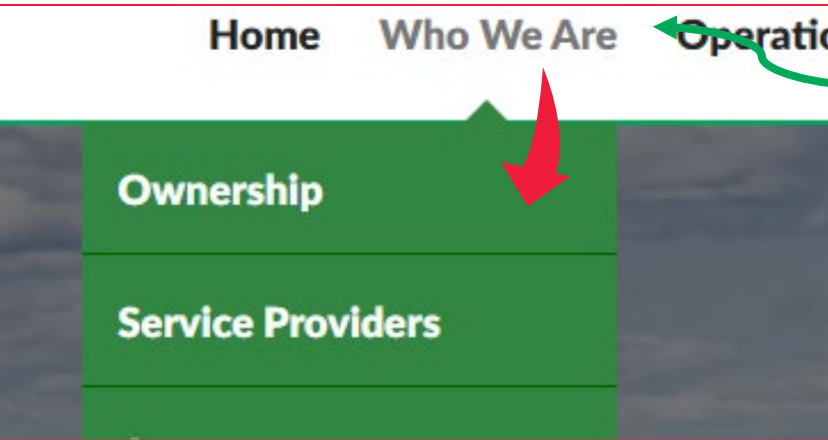
A screenshot of the website's navigation bar. The main navigation items are 'Environment', 'Health & Safety', and 'Get Involved'. Below these, there are two sub-navigation items: 'Emergencies & Outages' and 'Power Transmission Safety'. A red arrow points to the 'Power Transmission Safety' item.

Wondering about work programs during Operations? Check out the *Bamijikewin* page to learn about vegetation management, or the *IMER* page for ongoing activities you may see on the land.

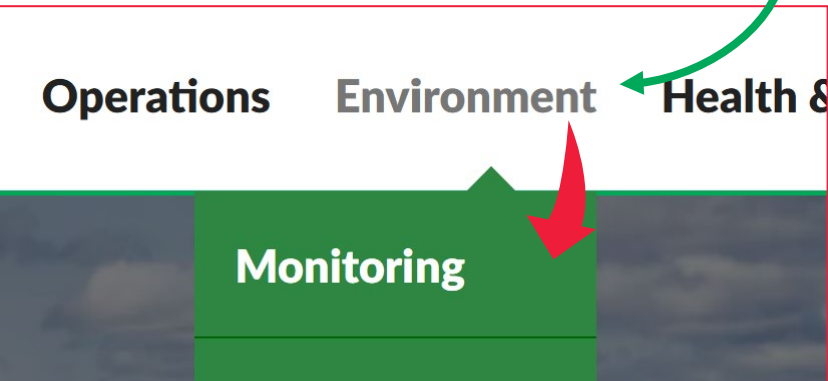
A screenshot of the website's navigation bar. The main navigation items are 'Home', 'Who We Are', 'Operations', and 'Environment'. Below these, there are four sub-navigation items: 'IMER', 'First Nation Participation', 'Bamijikewin', and 'Regulatory Filings'. A red arrow points to the 'Bamijikewin' item.

Wataynikaneyap Power – New Website

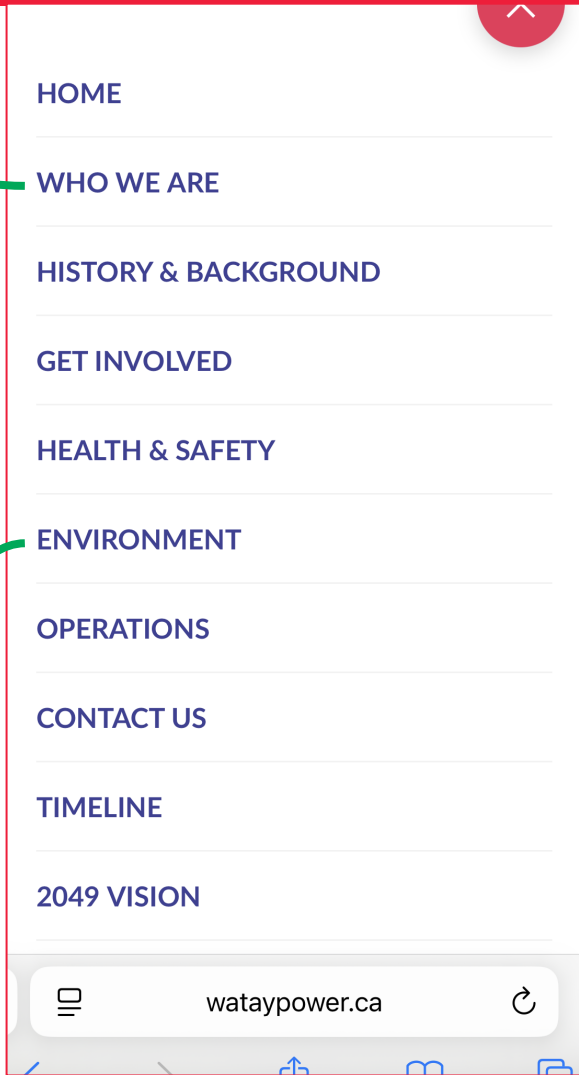
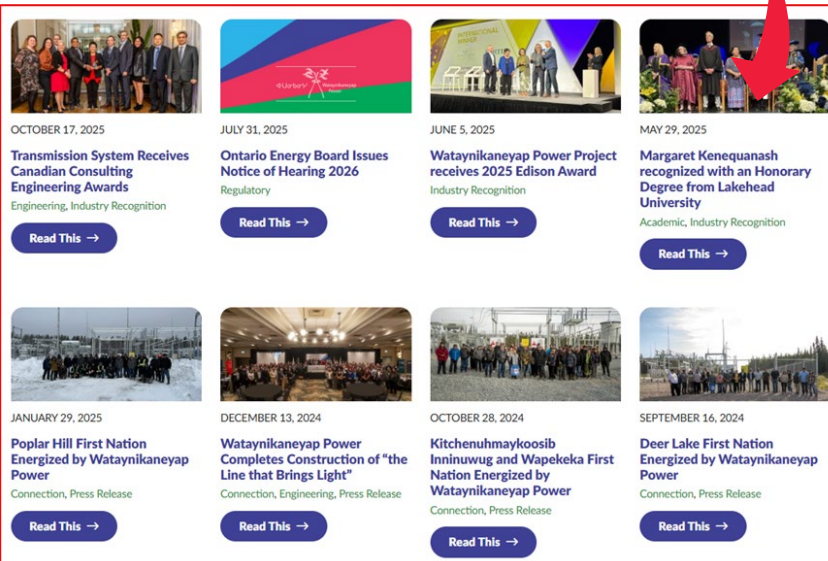
Want to know more about Wataynikaneyap's Ownership structure?
Visit www.wataypower.ca/who-we-are/ownership



Want to know more about the different environmental monitoring programs happening for species-at-risk on the Wataynikaneyap Transmission System? Visit www.wataypower.ca/environment/monitoring



Looking for news? Check out the News & Updates area for recent news releases, announcements, etc.



More additions to the new Wataynikaneyap website are coming soon!

- A new history/background section will highlight the early studies and construction period of the transmission system.
- An "Information Materials" page will be added under News & Updates, featuring current handouts, flyers, posters, videos, and other resources.
- Anishinimowin will continue to be integrated throughout the website over the coming months, with plans to eventually translate the entire website.

2049 Vision - Workforce Development and 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 (PFN's) 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 employers.

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

If you need assistance related to employment on the Wataynikaneyap Transmission Line, including: navigating the Wataynikaneyap Labour Pool Database; creating or updating your resume to apply for positions with Wataynikaneyap or any of its subcontractors; or applying for an apprenticeship with Eptcon/Powertel, please contact OSLP
Office: (807) 474-3300 ext. 210 OR E-mail: contact@oslp.ca



Training

Please be advised that training will be carried out by service providers in specific work programs. Training will be discussed part of Workforce Development.

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

Career Fairs

Keisha and Rob were in Pikangikum on Wednesday, May 13, representing OSLP and Wataynikaneyap at the career fair!

It was a great opportunity to connect with community members, share information about career pathways, and highlight the important work being done through OSLP and Wataynikaneyap. Thanks to everyone who stopped by to say hello!



Cross Cultural Training



Opiikapawiiin Services LP provided a Cross-Cultural Refresher training session – Nihisitotamaakewin (“An Understanding”) to Powertel/Cormorant employees on April 7 & 8, 2026. 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.

Bursary

Apply now!



Made possible with
funding from
ieso
Connecting Today.
Powering Tomorrow.



Wataynikaneyap Power is offering a bursary and mentorship program throughout 2026 to support grade 12 and post-secondary students from Wataynikaneyap's owner communities.* Successful applicants will receive:

- Mentorship from industry professionals
- Opportunities for paid work placements
- \$1,000 cash bursaries
- Industry connections
- Personalized career support

Apply or request an application:

807-577-5595 // HR@wataypower.ca // www.wataypower.ca

Employee Profile Spotlight



Melissa and Adam Beach at the Sandy Lake First Nation Energization Gathering on June 20, 2024.

Melissa Hanlon **Executive Assistant / HR Support** **Wataynikaneyap Power PM**

My name is Melissa Hanlon, and I'm a member of Red Rock Indian Band. I grew up in Thunder Bay and have been part of the Wataynikaneyap Project since 2020. I started as an Admin Assistant/HR Support and now work as Executive Assistant/HR Support.

One of the things I value most about working on this project is knowing the work we do is making a lasting impact in First Nations communities. Being part of this Project has also helped me reconnect with my culture, especially through the opportunities we have to bring Indigenous perspectives and traditions into our work.

In my role I support leadership, as well as my colleagues by helping keep things organized and moving forward behind the scenes. A typical day can include managing calendars, coordinating meetings and travel, answering emails, supporting the Wataynikaneyap CEO, and overall staying one step ahead to help things to run smoothly! Things can change quickly, so being flexible, organized, and motivated are important parts of the job.

When I first joined the project, stepping into the utility industry was definitely a challenge because I had no previous experience in this world. I remember sitting in meetings early on feeling completely out of my element; but over time I have learned so much and have become more confident. Looking back now, I'm proud of how much I've grown and of being part of the many moving pieces that have helped the Project be successful.

I have so many favourite moments from the Project, but I've especially loved the time spent in communities and being part of celebrations along the way. North Caribou Lake's Energization Gathering, which was outdoors, stands out as one of my favourites. Even getting stuck overnight at the Sioux Lookout Airport on the way home from Kingfisher Lake's Energization Gathering became one of those experiences I'll always remember.

I started my career by taking a year of social work at the college, which was followed by a 10-year career in banking. After having my children, I decided to return to school and completed my Honours Bachelor of Commerce at Lakehead University. I later worked as an HR intern at Shkoday before joining the Watay team. I also currently sit on the Shkoday board and Beendigan board to give back and get more involved in the governance of Indigenous organizations that help my people.

Outside of work, I enjoy reading, running, and spending time with my kids. I'm currently working toward a goal of running 7 km by the end of the summer, and one day I'd love to write a book. I also have a 10-year-old dog named Lucy who keeps life interesting at home. A fun fact about me is that I was the last baby born in the old Nipigon hospital before it was torn down - and I can say the alphabet backwards!

Bamijikewin (Vegetation Management) Engagement

Engagement on the Bamijikewin plan will continue throughout 2026, with the initial round of right-of-way vegetation management beginning this year. Each line segment will typically require vegetation management on a 5–8 year cycle.

As part of this ongoing work, the Wataynikaneyap Power/OSLP team will be travelling to First Nations communities to begin the second round of Bamijikewin engagement and to provide other updates on the status of the transmission system. Community members are encouraged to keep an eye out for upcoming announcements and engagement opportunities!

With guidance from our Elders, the vegetation management program was named **Bamijikewin**, reflecting the cleaning and maintenance of the land.

Bamijikewin 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.

The Bamijikewin (Vegetation Management) plan will be developed 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 Bamijikewin should be conducted on your homeland;
- Seek to understand what equipment and resources your First Nation has to complete Bamijikewin Work;
- Respect and Understand Barriers and Needs

Other Engagement



Wataynikaneyap and OSLP met with newly elected Chief Sheryl Lawson and Councillors Anita and Melanie of McDowell Lake First Nation on April 28, 2026, to provide a Chief’s Orientation.

Wataynikaneyap and Opiikapawiin Services offer a Chief’s Orientation and project overview to all newly elected Chiefs to ensure they are informed and up to date on important project matters.

Wataynikaneyap will develop the Bamijikewin Plan through:

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

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 Bamijikewin (vegetation management), environmental monitoring, and maintenance of access trails and landing areas.

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

