



The Alliance

INDEPENDENT FIRST NATIONS ALLIANCE | AUGUST 2022

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GIVING COMMUNITIES A VOICE

The Northern Ontario Emergency Management Working Group, chaired by IFNA's Darrin Spence, hosted the inaugural After Action Responders Forum this May. The event brought together First Nation emergency professionals from across Ontario to debrief and share best practices in emergency management. Sessions covered a wide variety of pressing issues in emergency management, including "Communities Supporting Communities Through Difficult Times: Why it Works," which involved Community Emergency Management Coordinator, Derek Maud, who shared Lac Seul's experience hosting evacuees last summer.

The event was a success and received overwhelmingly positive feedback from delegates. The Working Group is already beginning to plan another forum this Fall, directly after the fire and flood season, and hopes to turn this into an annual event.

"We wanted to provide the communities a voice, to give them a platform where they could tell their stories ... and how it is that their experiences can assist us in going forward and providing community support."

- Darrin Spence, Social Emergency Management Coordinator

A NEW WAY TO HIRE HUMAN RESOURCES

For IFNA to best serve its communities, a streamlined hiring process is needed to ensure we are hiring the best people for the job. As a result, the Human Resource Department developed a three-step, streamlined process that ensures incoming employees have a successful start to their careers with IFNA and are ready to provide services and care to our communities. The new hiring process will help

communities as IFNA seeks the best people for the job, such as people who speak communities' languages, people who fit within the culture of IFNA, and people who are culturally aware and respectful.

"We want to ensure that employees who are coming to work with the Independent First Nations Alliance have a successful experience in beginning their role and feeling comfortable going into their roles knowing the expectations."

- Brittany Favot, Human Resources Coordinator

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF



WHITESAND



LAC SEUL




KITCHENUHMA YKOOSIB
INNINUWUG



MUSKRAT DAM



PIKANGIKUM



Rendering of the future Berens River Bridge

BRIDGING GAPS TECHNICAL SERVICES

The IFNA Technical Services team has been supporting Pikangikum First Nation with an important project that will help connect the community and six others to the all season road. The Berens River Bridge and Roads Project entails building a bridge across the Berens River as well as 18km of all-season road to Pikangikum. Reliable access to the all season road will bridge gaps in access to services and employment as well as

provide future cost savings to the Pikangikum and its members.

“We are proud to be a part of this important project that respects land use while improving the accessibility and capacity for First Nations communities.”

- Jonathan Gregg, Technical Services Manager

STRENGTHENING FIRE DEFENSES INTEGRATED EMERGENCY SERVICES

At the end of June, the IFNA Integrated Emergency Services (IES) team began delivery of a six-day SP103 Wildland Fire Training to community Peacekeepers and White Feather crews in Pikangikum. The training covered theory, field practice, and a survey of critical infrastructure and fuel close to critical infrastructure.

The SP103 training course provided a unique opportunity to not only build capacity in Pikangikum, but also accomplish some critical fire protection work

at the same time. Trainers tied in the sprinkler training portion with setting up a sprinkler system in the Pikangikum Nursing Station. Installation of a sprinkler system is a crucial safety feature and especially important in maintaining the essential services provided in the building.

The IES team hopes to bring this training into all of the IFNA communities in the future to strengthen capacity to mitigate and fight fire threats.



Peacekeeper Norman Turtle practicing truck operation

BRINGING SUPPORT INTO COMMUNITIES

HEALTH SERVICES

Mental health services, especially in First Nation communities, have long been underfunded and have faced many barriers, including staff and service availability. Mental health is an essential part of overall wellbeing and quality of life and can even greatly affect physical health as well.

In response, the IFNA Substance Use and Addiction Program (SUAP) began a year-long Focusing-Orientated Therapy and Complex Trauma course. The course trains front-line staff and IFNA health staff with counselling skills to handle complex traumas in

respectful, effective ways within their communities. Representatives from Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninunuwug, Lac Seul First Nation, Pikangikum First Nation, and IFNA staff are practicing the program on a monthly basis.

The IFNA Health team continues to engage with the communities to identify community needs and develop programs to provide the best care to community members across all four areas of the wellbeing spectrum – physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual.



2021 STUDENT SUCCESSES

EDUCATION SERVICES

We are all proud of our home away program students and are grateful to play a role in supporting their success and growth. This year was not without its challenges, as students were sent back to their communities multiple times throughout the year due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

Despite these setbacks, students in the Home Away Program from Muskrat Dam and Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninunuwug were 100% successful this year. Congratulations to all students!

100% Success Rate This Year



TEAM BUILDING

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Finance and Administration staff gathered for a two-day working session earlier this fiscal year. Included in the two-day workshop were both team-building exercises and a review of the IFNA Strategic Plan. After reviewing and updating the Finance department's 5-year work plan, a new work plan was made for the Administrative team. The team also developed the initial outline of the way they thought an Administrative department would best be organized for IFNA as a whole. This Team Building session fostered collaboration amongst the departments, which will help them work together to better support IFNA and IFNA communities moving forward.



"This was a very positive experience for our departments and I look forward to seeing our plans come to life."

- Eugene Southwind, Finance Manager



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