

AUGUST 2022

NEWSLETTER



# GWAYAKOCCHIGWIN

MAKING DECISIONS THE RIGHT WAY

## WAASIGAN Transmission Line Project

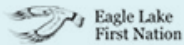
IN  
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ISSUE

Creation of CMO  
About GLP  
About Waasigan  
Next Steps  
Updated Map

MAKING DECISIONS THE RIGHT WAY



Gwayakocchigewin LP is a First Nation partnership owned by:



Eagle Lake First Nation,



Fort William First Nation,



Lac La Croix First Nation,



Lac Seul First Nation,



Nigigoonsiminikaaning  
First Nation,



Seine River First Nation,



Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation, and



Ojibway Nation of Saugeen.



## Creation of Chi Mino Ozhitoowin

The 8 Gwayakocchigewin LP First Nations have created a new services entity called Chi Mino Ozhitoowin.

The name originated from the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation elders. It means “everyone building (anything) in a real good way”.

CMO is a separate entity from GLP, and will provide the following project services:

- First Nation training & capacity building
- Energy readiness training
- Work readiness training
- Technical training, pre-trades training, and apprenticeships
- Management training
- First Nations employment recruitment & retention
- Cultural awareness programs & training
- Environmental and traditional land protection/monitoring

Services continued:

- First Nation business readiness & supports
- First Nations engagement & communications
- Other Services as mandated by the 8 First Nations

The CMO will convene it's first Board of Directors meeting in August 2022.



# WAASIGAN OPEN HOUSE

## Community Open Houses were held in Eagle Lake First Nation and Lac Seul First Nation

The Community Open Houses(COH) took place at Eagle Lake First Nation's Community Hall on May 25, 2022 and in Lac Seul First Nation on June 2, 2022. The COHs update community members on the Waasigan Transmission Line Project, environmental assessment (EA) process and the Gwayakocchigewin Limited Partnership (GLP). The meetings were open house style, with participants interacting with Hydro One team members and GLP representatives, viewing poster materials, table maps and handouts.

**WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT**

**COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE**

**JUNE 2nd**  
FROM  
**12 - 4 PM**

LAC SEUL EVENT CENTRE,  
ARENA PORTION

Pick Up Times:  
11:30 am - Kejick Bay Band Office  
11:30 am - Whitefish Bay Band Office

The Community Open House will provide opportunities to meet the project team, share updated project information, and collect your feedback.

DINNER & DOOR PRIZES provided

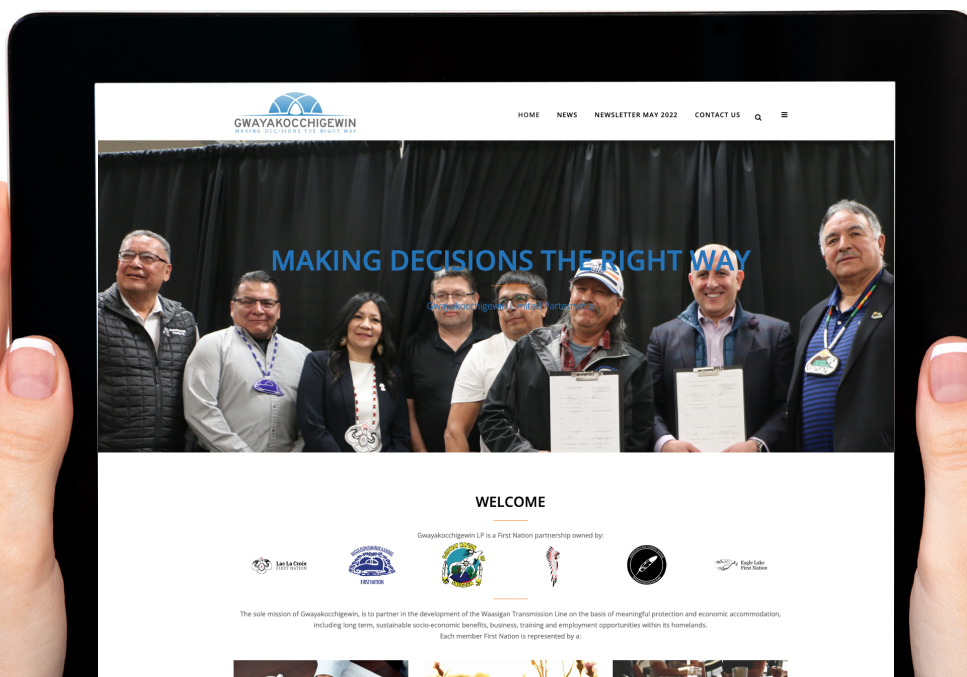
Contact:  
TeKay Nelson - [tekaynelson@lacseulfn.org](mailto:tekaynelson@lacseulfn.org)

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2345221976>

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:**  
12:00 pm - Meet & Greet  
12:30 pm - Dinner  
1:30 pm - Presentations from Gwayakocchigewin LP & Hydro One

**WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE**

Visit us at [www.glp-fn.ca](http://www.glp-fn.ca)





# Who is Gwayakocchigewin?

## Our Mission



Gwayakocchigewin Limited Partnership (GLP) is a consortium of eight First Nations working together on the development of the Waasigan Transmission Line. Gwayakocchigewin means “making decisions the right way”. GLP’s goal is to achieve meaningful economic participation for its First Nations, while protecting the lands, waters, and cultural values potentially impacted by the Waasigan Project. Each member First Nation is represented by a:

### Board Member

She/He leads the overall business and direction of GLP. At this stage in the project development, the Board of Director’s responsibilities are focused on assisting, supporting the legal negotiation of the Hydro One and GLP Term Sheet, Definitive Documentation and Economic Accommodation. They are also working very closely with the Protection Committee in the development, approval of the Environmental Assessment.

### Protection Committee Member

She/He is responsible for coordinating and overseeing the First Nation’s participation in all components of the Environmental Assessment. This includes traditional knowledge and land use studies, archeology, value and rights impact Assessments, environmental, social and cultural mitigation measures, etc.

### Community Engagement Coordinator

She/He is responsible for serving as a primary liaison between Hydro One, GLP and their First Nation. This includes information sharing and supporting the coordination of local community engagement related to the advancement of the Project, environmental assessment, training, employment and contracting initiatives.

## Our Guiding Principles

GLP recognizes the importance of the following to its 8 partner First Nations:

- Ownership and control over development in their homelands
- Meaningful consultation and accommodation for impacted lands
- Sharing of benefits
- Employment, training, and business opportunities
- Environmental protection and monitoring
- Traditional knowledge, land use, and cultural awareness
- Trust and relationship building with Hydro One
- The need to address “Other Matters” with Hydro One and the Crown





# About the Waasigan Transmission Line

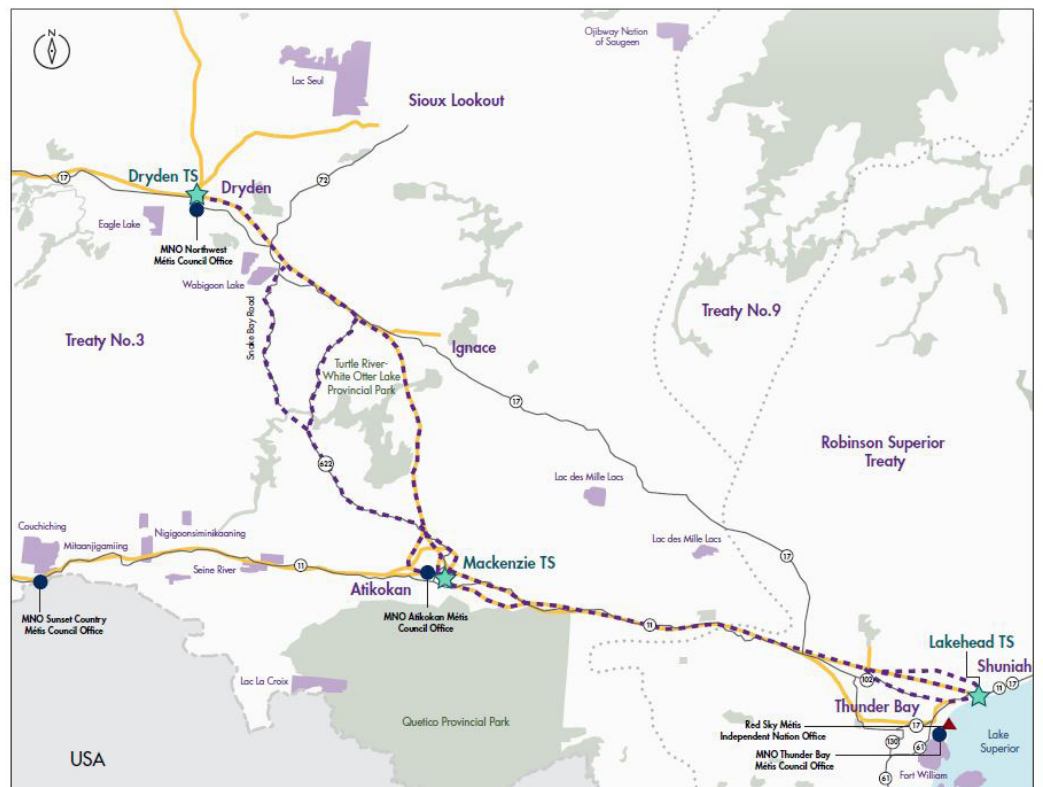
Waasigan Transmission Line will bolster capacity in northwest Ontario by adding 350 megawatts of capacity to the region with a new double-circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Lakehead Transmission Station (TS) in the Municipality of Shuniah and Mackenzie TS in the Town of Atikokan, and a new single-circuit 230 kV transmission line between Mackenzie TS and Dryden TS in the City of Dryden. Completion of the line is contingent on Indigenous consultation, stakeholder consultation and regulatory approvals. Hydro One is aiming to start construction by 2025. To learn more about the project, visit: [HydroOne.com/Waasigan](https://HydroOne.com/Waasigan).



## WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE

### Map Legend

- Existing Transformer Station (TS)
- Alternative Routes
- Existing Transmission Line
- Highway
- International Border
- Red Sky Métis Independent Nation Office
- Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Council Office
- Treaty Boundary
- First Nation Reserve
- Provincial Park





# Field Work Update

It has been a busy field season and will be coming to a close at the end of September. The results of the field work will be used to support the environmental assessment, including the selection of a preferred route and to assess the potential effects of the new transmission line.

Surveys completed as part of the field work program include:

o Terrestrial Surveys:

- Amphibians
- Birds
- Bats
- Gray Fox
- Significant Wildlife Habitat
- Vegetation and Wetlands

o Aquatics Surveys:

- Surface Water
- Fish and Fish Habitat

Several Indigenous field crew members and community monitors joined the surveys. This has been a valuable experience for field crews to learn more about Indigenous culture and perspective when undertaking field activities, and feeds into the Indigenous Knowledge being considered in the environmental assessment.

The Project Team appreciates the joint effort and participation by Indigenous communities to move this important work along and on schedule.



## Environmental Assessment – Next Steps

1. Evaluate the Alternative Routes: Based on data collected, including results of the field studies and Indigenous Knowledge provided by communities, an evaluation will be completed of the alternative routes to select a preferred route that minimizes impacts to the environment. We are working with Indigenous communities to ensure there is opportunity to provide input and Indigenous Knowledge into the routing process.
2. Select a Preferred Route: Upon selecting a preferred route, an assessment of potential effects on the environment will be completed to identify mitigation measures and develop monitoring requirements. A preferred route is anticipated to be selected later this fall and additional engagement, including Community Open Houses, will be completed to collect feedback.
3. Prepare an Environmental Assessment Report: It is anticipated that a draft Environmental Assessment Report will be available in early 2023 for review and comment. Based on feedback received, the Environmental Assessment Report will be revised and submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for an approval decision.





# Our Next Steps

GLP will now continue our work to implement our plan to ensure the communities we represent be involved in the project

## Hiring

### PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES

GLP intends to enter into a contract for the supply of project management services, with such service provider representing the GLP First Nations in oversight and development of the Project. Project development activities include environmental, permitting, Indigenous engagement, engineering, community readiness, and construction readiness. The service provider will work closely with Hydro One's Project Delivery Team, which has ultimate responsibility for the Project. This support position also provides an opportunity to build capacity and gain experience on a major project development. The specific responsibilities of the service provider will include:

- Participating in Hydro One Project Delivery Team meetings
- Providing Hydro One Project Delivery Team continuous input on First Nations expectations and strategies to meet them
- Managing GLP Protection Committee meetings
- Liaising between the GLP Protection Committee and Hydro One Project Delivery Team
- Liaising with each of the GLP First Nation's Community Engagement Coordinators (CECs)
- Facilitating the sharing of information between the Hydro One Project Delivery team, and GLP

Interested?

Please contact:

**Ginny Michano**  
Implementation Officer – Support  
[gmichano@northvista.ca](mailto:gmichano@northvista.ca)

## Business Readiness

One of our goals is to maximize Indigenous Participation during development, construction, and operations of the Project

We're completing an inventory of businesses from GLP First Nations, and will begin the process helping them get ready for subcontracting opportunities.

If you would like to have your business included, please contact Ginny Michano

## Employment & Training

There will be many opportunities for employment on the Project, ranging from general labour to skilled labour and management positions. While construction is several years away, we will begin the process of identifying interested individuals, and addressing any training or work readiness requirements.

## Cultural Awareness

Hydro One and its contractors will be provided cultural awareness training in order to understand and respect our people, lands, and protocols. We will be developing a cultural awareness program for the Waasigan Project

## Community Engagement Coordinator Network/Training

Hydro One and GLP will be hosting a one-day training session for the Community Engagement Coordinators. The session will be held on August 25, 2022 in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

The purpose of the training is to provide an orientation to the Waasigan Transmission Line project, background information on Gwayakocchigewin LP and Chi Mino Ozhitoowin, and defining the roles and responsibilities of a CEC.

Guest speakers from other projects will address the CECs outlining lessons learned, best practices, challenges and overall advice to ensure success.

The CECs have created their own network and the session will clarify what the network is and how this will become an effective tool.

## Contractor Selection

Hydro One has initiated a process to select the EPC (Engineering, Procurement, Construction) Contractor for the Project. The shortlisted candidates are Forbes Bros Ltd. and Valard Construction LP. GLP communities will be engaged on this process and have the opportunity to provide input, prior to selection of the preferred contractor this fall.

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## Get in touch

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