



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 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 the Wataynikaneyap Transmission Line Project?



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!



2 Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission System Construction Progress

The energization activities in spring 2024 represent the completion of the majority of capital construction activity by Valard. However, there are Right of Way remediation activities and de-mobilization of materials and equipment that will continue through to spring 2025! Wataynikaneyap Power will announce the connections when we celebrate with the community. Poplar Hill, North Spirit Lake, and Keewaywin First Nations' assets were energized this Spring 2024. Stay tuned for celebration announcements from these communities, in addition to Muskrat Dam - these First Nations' assets were energized in 2023 and we look forward to celebrating with them too!

Restoration & Clean-up, Deficiency & Warranty Work on the Homelands

Valard Construction and Wataynikaneyap Power are active on the Homelands to clean up and restore areas of the transmission system as part of the EPC contract. This work is ongoing throughout the fall 2024 to the winter 2025. Clean-up and restoration activities are expected to be completed by April 2025. Please see below for when work is expected in your area.

Restoration and clean-up activities include:

- Cleaning up garbage
- Removing fuel tanks, pallets, boxes, matts, tarps, and other supplies
- Leveling out the ground from rutting or other damage
- Removing pylons and construction signage
- Small repairs to the transmission line as noted in Wataynikaneyap Power's inspections (Valard is also required to complete all deficient items and may have to return for warranty work from time to time)
- Removing access matts, which requires winter access on the Right of Way with heavy machinery

Group 1 (Wabigoon Lake, Lac Seul, Saugeen, Slate Falls, Cat Lake, Mishkeegogamang)	October / November 2024 January / February 2025
Group 2 (First Nations north of Pickle Lake: North Caribou Lake, Kingfisher Lake, Wunnumin Lake, Wawakapewin, Kasabonika, Muskrat Dam, Sachigo Lake, Bearskin Lake, Wapekeka, KI)	September / October 2024 February / March 2025
Group 3 (First Nations north of Red Lake: Pikangikum, Poplar Hill, Deer Lake, McDowell Lake, North Spirit Lake, Sandy Lake, Keewaywin)	September / October 2024 February / March 2025

Substation Blessings

Substation blessings have been completed in communities that have held their gathering to celebrate their energizations, including Sachigo Lake (Substation G) on September 12, 2024, and Deer Lake (Substation U) on September 16th! (See pages 8 – 11 to see more photos from the gathering!)



Blessing of Substation G (Sachigo Lake) on September 12, 2024.



Blessing of Substation U (Deer Lake) on September 16, 2024.



Blessings for the remaining 3 substations that are located outside of the communities (Substations R, T, and Z) were completed on October 3, 2024 by Rob C, Margaret, Elizabeth R, and Jordan S.

For communities that have been energized but have not yet held their gathering, Wataynikaneyap will incorporate substation blessings during that event.

Active/Recent Job Postings

Interested in any of the below job postings? Visit www.oslp.ca/careers
 OR email projectjobs@oslp.ca OR ask your Community Liaison for information!

Company	Positions
NORTHWINDS	Job Shadowing Environmental Monitoring Opportunities (Spring)



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
CORMORANT UTILITY SERVICES	Heavy Duty Equipment Technician
POWERTEL (A Cormorant Utility Services Company)	Accepting applications for Electricians and Powerline Technician Apprenticeships

Opiikapawiin Recruitment & Retention Team

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 Indigenous Recruitment and Retention Advisor
Office: (807) 474-3300 ext. 210

OSLP Employment Support Coordinator
Office: (807) 474-3300 ext. 222

HydroOne Remotes

Do you have a question or concern about...



- A power outage?
- Your electricity bill?
- How to conserve electricity?
- Power safety in the home?
- The poles or metering system outside your home?

Power distribution is the responsibility of HydroOne Remotes. They should be contacted directly about these types of questions or concerns. They are prepared to respond 24/7 to outages and other issues. Hydro One Remotes should also be contacted directly if you need to report any issue regarding power distribution within your community (like a fallen hydro pole).

Employee Profile Spotlight



Sage Mamakeesick
Lac Seul First Nation
Wataynikaneyap Power
PM Summer Student

My name is Sage Mamakeesick, I was born and raised in Lac Seul First Nation. I have spent a large amount of time on the Wataynikaneyap Power Project witnessing the 'construction' part of it! My first role on the project was to deliver fuel to forward crews on the CJ and CD lines doing foundation work. I filled heavy equipment, small fuel storages, and other diesel fed machinery in the field.

My second role was working in the Materials Yard, where I was loading trailers, and sorting, receiving and keeping inventory for over a year. For my third role, I moved to the Project Management team as a Project Assistant (PA). Moving to the office role had a different focus of the project; being a PA required me to be open and help anyone and everyone that steps foot on the project. Each role had a main component of being a helpful person in the workplace.

Due to my time on the project, I became interested in learning more about power systems and chose to attend college to learn about the technical side. I looked into options at colleges in Manitoba and Ontario. I chose to study at Confederation College in Thunder Bay, and I am currently attending the 3-year Electrical Engineering Technology program. Before that, I moved to Thunder Bay for High School and have been all over Northwestern and Northern Ontario.

As a summer student working in the Operations department at Wataynikaneyap Power PM, my day-to-day duties were to support the operations department with their projects. This included creating and handling documents, editing AutoCAD drawings with supervision of an engineer, traveling to site for field work, shadow learning my peers, and absorbing as much information as I can!

I am currently working on anything that is needed by others; the byproduct is I learn what everyone on the Operations team is working on. I am being flexible and trying new things brings a new perspective to the office environment. In the short time I spent with Wataynikaneyap, I have learned so much more than I anticipated. Everyone has been so helpful and answered all my questions. The team here in Thunder Bay is one solid group to work with and I hope to return!

Overall, my favourite moment working on the project would be witnessing my area of work, from the clearing of the Right of Way, foundation drilling, tower building to the final conductor strung. For a single experience, spending hundreds of hours in the front-end loader plowing snow, loading/unloading and keeping maintenance. The 3 and 1 Rotational work (three weeks on, one week off) was tough for the first year, but eventually it became the new normal for the rest of my time on the project. Towards the latter half of the project, working and connecting with those you work with day to day made the project better. While it was a bit challenging trying to remember the names of the hundreds of personnel throughout the Project, I met new friends along the way and grew into a more people-focused person. Creating and maintaining those relationships is what I value about my work.

I have one cat named Helios, I received him as a holiday surprise in 2021. Staying true to his name "God of the Sun," he likes to be loud every morning at 4 am to be let outside. One quirk of Helios is that he is quite small for an adult cat!

Rural Change Makers



The Rural Change Makers (RCM) program is designed to shape emerging leaders in rural/remote Ontario to lead community development solutions with their communities. The goals of the Rural Changemaker program is to provide professional development for young adults, build rural youth leadership capacity; catalyze impactful rural development outcomes for communities and regions; and broaden public engagement in rural development initiatives.

The 2023 Rural Change Makers at their graduation ceremony!

Back Row: United Way of Hastings and Prince Edward County Director of Community Impact Kaitlyn Lalonde, followed by Rural Change Makers Hardik, Jillian, Amanda, Mabe, Daisy and ROI Community Development Intern Francisca Small. **Front Row:** Melanie Bidiuk Rural Change Maker Program Manager, followed by change makers Mahbuba, Taku, Rainelle Keeper (Pikangikum), Kayla, Krystal, ROI Executive Director Ellen Sinclair and ROI Rural Events Coordinator Kelsey Randhawa.

Paminikweh-Naakacicikewin (Keepers of the Land) Training

The Paminikweh-Naakacicikewin training program, a seven-week First Nations environmental leadership training program, is being delivered at Quetico Conference Centre from October 15 to December 6, 2024. It will provide the necessary training designed to prepare participants for employment opportunities for the maintenance of the Wataynikaneyap Project Transmission System and powerline sector.



Indigenous Knowledge and Land Based Learning training session with Elder Judy Da Silva.

Back Left to Right: Elder Da Silva; Zack Harris BEAHR instructor; trainees Bradley Bighead (Cat Lake); River Beardy (Bearskin Lake); Damon Kejick (KI); Hosea Turtle (Pikangikum); Albert Shingebis (Mishkeegogamang); Louis Simard (Lac Seul), Bradley Wesley (Lac Seul); Clarence Mekanak (Bearskin Lake);

Front Left to Right: Elaine Keesick (Indigenous Recruitment and Retention Advisor), Elder Judy Da Silva, Laura Calmwind (Training Manager), trainee Charlene McDonald (Deer Lake)

Paminikweh-Naakacicikewin (Keepers of the Land) Training



Tree identification and discussion of wildlife habitat in trees.
(Left to Right: Louis, Hosea, Damon, River, Charlene, Bradley W, Clarence, Zack)



Examining annual growth rings on an Eastern White Pine (Left to Right: Zack, Bradley W, Hosea, River).



Examining soil horizons and learning to identify different soil textures.

(Left to Right: Hosea, Zack)



Left to Right: (Zach Harris, BEAHR Trainer); Charlene McDonald (Deer Lake); Louis Simard (Lac Seul); Damon Kejick (KI); Bradley Wesley (Lac Seul); Clarence Mekanak (Bearskin Lake); River Beardy (Bearskin Lake); Hosea Turtle (Pikangikum); Albert Shingebis (Mishkeegogamang).

Sachigo Lake First Nation Gathering to Celebrate Energization – September 12, 2024



Sachigo Lake community members and guests from Fortis Inc., FortisOntario, Hydro One Remotes, Valard, and other First Nation organization representatives, came together to celebrate the community's connection to the provincial grid on September 12, 2024.

Pastor Albert McKay blessing the substation



Lights on and spirits high!

Chief Simon Tait providing opening comments



Frank McKay, Windigo First Nation Council CEO & Board Chair for Wataynikaneyap Power General Partnership (WPGP)

Lucie Edwards (CEO, Opiikapawiin Services LP) ladling up a warm bowl of soup made by a Sachigo Lake community member

Sachigo Lake First Nation Gathering to Celebrate Energization – September 12, 2024



Margaret Kenequanash and Chief Simon Tait cutting the cake!



Margaret Kenequanash presents MPP Stephen Lecce, with a gift



Wataynikaneyap Power gifts an LED lightbulb to community members in attendance at each gathering to celebrate energization



Sachigo Lake Chief and Council posing with Margaret Kenequanash (Wataynikaneyap CEO), Gary Smith (Fortis Inc.), Karen McCarthy (Fortis Inc.)

Deer Lake First Nation Gathering to Celebrate Energization – September 16, 2024



Deer Lake community members and guests from Fortis Inc., FortisOntario, Hydro One Remotes, Valard, and other First Nation organization representatives, came together to celebrate the community's connection to the provincial grid on September 16, 2024.



Elders Saggius & Elizabeth Rae opening the gathering with a prayer. We would like to acknowledge and thank Saggius and Elizabeth Rae of Deer Lake First Nation for their numerous and meaningful contributions to the Project!

Em Cee Pauline Mickelson sparking up some laughs!

John Cutfeet, providing translation



Youth from the Deer Lake school joining for the celebrations!

Deer Lake First Nation Gathering to Celebrate Energization – September 16, 2024



Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler offers his remarks.

Hydro One Remote Communities Representative Jessica Towell, handing out promotional items and ready to answer questions

Wataynikaneyap Power & Opiikapawiin Services took a moment to acknowledge Barry Meekis and his dedication as Deer Lake's community liaison since 2015. He has been a key part of the project, and we're grateful for his kindness and commitment over the years.



Deer Lake First Nation Chief Mamakeesick and Margaret Kenequanash cutting the cake!

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Innuuwug and Wapekeka First Nation

Gathering to Celebrate Energization – October 28, 2024



Blessing of Substation M (KI/Wapekeka) on October 28, 2024

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Innuuwug and Wapekeka First Nation were the 9th and 10th First Nations energized by the provincial power grid through the Wataynikaneyap Power transmission system!

On October 28, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Innuuwug and Wapekeka First Nation invited Wataynikaneyap Power, Opiikapawiin Services, government, and other stakeholders to celebrate this momentous occasion in Kitchenuhmaykoosib Innuuwug.

Stay tuned for additional photos in the next issue of the Wataynikaneyap Power & Opiikapawiin Services Indigenous Participation Update Newsletter (Winter 2025).



Post-event smiles from the Wataynikaneyap / OSLP energization gathering planning team!

Special thanks to each of the community organizers and helpers on-the-ground for all their hard work in making each event a success.

Left to right: Margaret, Keisha, Melissa, Mary, Josie, Lydia

Kingfisher Lake First Nation – August 23, 2024



Wataynikaneyap Power presented to Kingfisher Lake community members on August 23, 2024. The Wataynikaneyap Power and Opiikapawiin Services team presented an update on the Project Status as well as on Indigenous Participation. A presentation was also provided on Vegetation Management & Preparing for Business Opportunities!

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.



Councillor Stephen Sainnawap accepting a gift by Margaret Kenequanash on behalf of Chief and Council

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 starting in 2026. (Each line segment will typically need vegetation management on a 5-8 year cycle!)

Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation – September 4, 2024

Wataynikaneyap Power presenting on the Vegetation Management Plan to Wabigoon Lake members in attendance. The Wataynikaneyap Power and Opiikapawiin Services team presented an update on the Project Status as well as on Indigenous Participation. A presentation was also provided on Vegetation Management & Preparing for Business Opportunities.



Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation Community Liaison Dakota Derosier!



Wataynikaneyap Power PM Director of Operations and Engineering, Greg Beharriell (left) and Transmission Lines Lead Jordan Davidson (right) presenting on vegetation management.



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

As the Wataynikaneyap Project continues to transition into the Operations stage, project activities will be slowing down. Consequently, the Wataynikaneyap/OSLP newsletter is now a quarterly distribution. The next issue will be published in the Winter of 2025.

Please contact the Indigenous Engagement Manager with any feedback at 807-474-3300, ext 214. Follow us on our social media platforms to stay up-to-date on any news and upcoming opportunities!

Business Readiness and Procurement of Goods and Services

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

Business Development Manager
Office: (807) 474-3300 ext. 224

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:

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 Transmission System Communications



Wataynikaneyap Power X (Twitter) Page:

www.twitter.com/wataynikaneyap

Wataynikaneyap LinkedIn Page:

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

Wataynikaneyap Power Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/WataynikaneyapPower

- Photos of project construction
- Project announcements and company updates
- Employment opportunities with Wataynikaneyap
- Fact sheets, Videos

Opiikapawiin Services Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/OpiikapawiinServicesLP

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



Wataynikaneyap
www.wataypower.ca

Opiikapawiin Services
www.oslp.ca

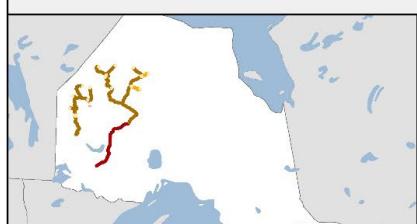
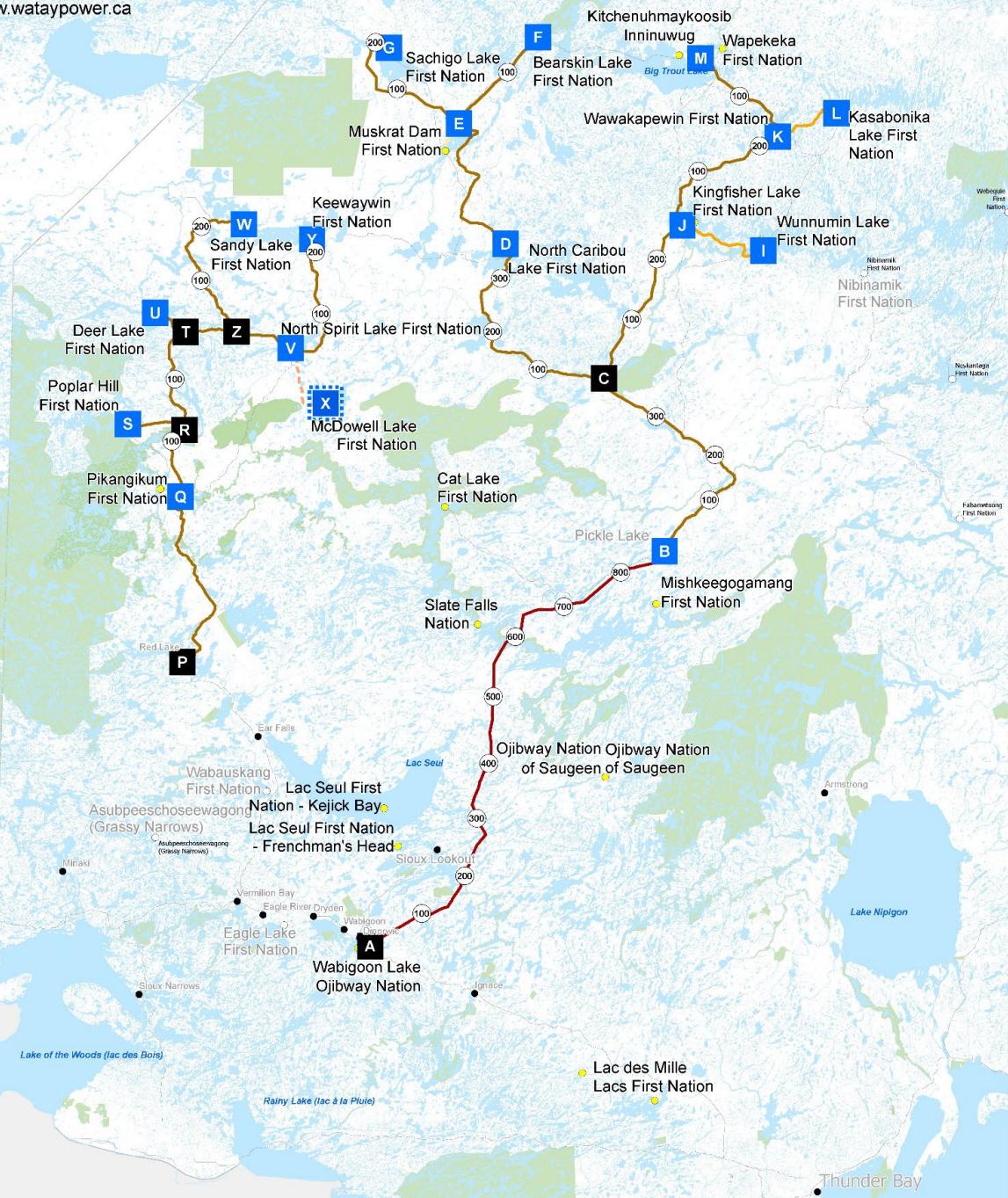
Valard - Wataynikaneyap
www.valard-watay.com

WATAYNIKANEYAP POWER Transmission System



watayinquiries@wataypower.ca

807-577-5955
www.wataypower.ca



- Participating First Nation in the Wataynikaneyap Power transmission system
- Non-Participating First Nation Community
- Town
- Transmission tower structure
- Switching Station
- Transformer Station
- Proposed McDowell Lake Transformer Station

*Letters indicate the beginning of each segment.

- Wataynikaneyap Power transmission line - 230 kV
- Wataynikaneyap Power transmission line - 115 kV
- Wataynikaneyap Power transmission line - 44 kV
- Wataynikaneyap Power transmission line - 25 kV
- - - Proposed Route for future consideration

0 10 20 40 60 80 100 120 Kilometers

Note: Wataynikaneyap Power will pursue options to connect McDowell Lake First Nation at a future date, which will include a 17th transformer station.