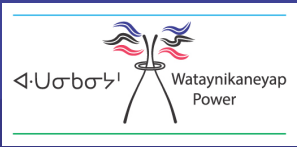


Beautiful photo taken on the Harvest Road



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  
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](mailto: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 Transmission System Construction

## Construction Lookback: By the Numbers

**1.726**  
million

hours worked  
by First Nation  
members  
during  
construction  
work

**953**

Participating  
First Nation  
members  
worked on  
construction  
activities

**17%**

of the overall  
construction  
workforce were  
Participating First  
Nation members

**8.45**  
million

hours of work to  
complete the  
project (by  
Valard,  
subcontractors,  
Wataynikaneyap  
& OLSP)

**6,948**  
km

Of conductor  
and OPGW  
length (driving  
distance from  
Halifax to  
Whitehorse!)

**18**  
million kg

Of tower steel –  
equivalent to  
30,000 moose!

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 June/July 2025!

Wataynikaneyap Power will continue to announce remaining community connections as we celebrate with each First Nation. We're excited to be celebrating with North Spirit Lake, Keewaywin, and Muskrat Dam in the near future - stay tuned for photos! See Pages 7 and 8 for highlights from Poplar Hill First Nation's energization gathering.

## 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.

### 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).

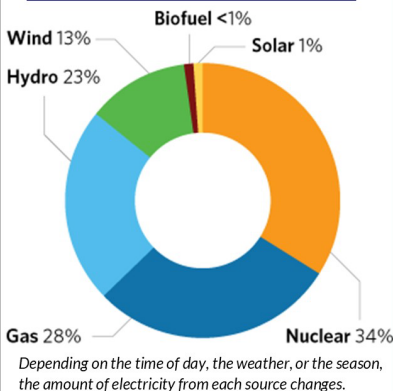
**This work will occur in June/July 2025 on all areas of the transmission system.**

## Electricity Regulation in Ontario

### ELECTRICITY—CREATION

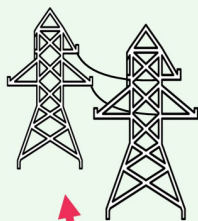
Electricity is made at generating stations across Ontario.

Ontario's power grid provides energy made from...

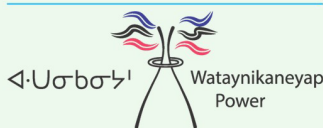


### TRANSMISSION

The electricity travels through high-voltage transmission lines.

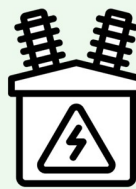


This is Wataynikaneyap Power!



### CONVERSION

It reaches a substation, where the voltage is lowered.



### DISTRIBUTION

The lower-voltage electricity travels through powerlines to inside your building.



All distribution will be managed by Hydro One Remote Communities Inc. (HORCI)

There are 430 power generators in Ontario – see the map above. All have licenses from the Ontario Energy Board (OEB). Power generators include Ontario Power Generation (OPG), Bruce Power, and smaller generators connected to transmission and distribution systems.



### Did you know?

**Wataynikaneyap Power LP is one of nine licensed power transmitters in Ontario.**

B2M LP

Canadian Niagara Power Inc.

Chatham x Lakeshore LP

Five Nations Energy Inc.

Hydro One Networks Inc.

Hydro One Sault Ste. Marie LP

Niagara Reinforcement LP

Upper Canada Transmission 2 Inc.

Wataynikaneyap Power LP

Non-Profit, 100% owned by five First Nations

51% owned by 24 First Nations, in partnership with Fortis Inc. and other private investors

There are 59 licensed distributors in Ontario. Most are owned by medium to large municipalities. Some are owned by investor-owned companies, like FortisOntario. HORCI serves most remote Ontario communities.

These regulatory and oversight bodies contribute to the oversight, regulation, and safe operation of Ontario's energy infrastructure:



#### Economic Regulator

- Electricity and Natural Gas Policy
- Rate-setting
- Consumer Protection

#### Independent Electricity System Operator

- Electricity market wholesale payments
- Balance generation and load
- Transmission system control
- Long-term planning

#### Safety Regulator

- Improve electrical safety for the public
- Ontario Electrical Safety Code
- Electrical contractor licensing
- Distributor safety oversight
- Consumer product safety



## Major Work Programs

Below is a summary of the key work programs that will be carried out during the Operations and Maintenance phase of the Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission System. These programs will continue to be shared and engaged on with the communities as the Project moves forward in Operations.



### IMER (Inspection Maintenance & Emergency Response)

- Transmission lines and substations focus
- Current contract with PowerTel until 2026
- Contract includes requirements for PowerTel to train apprentices from PFN.

### Environment Program (Endangered Species Act Monitoring Requirements)

- Monitoring: Caribou summer & winter habitat, invasive species, permanent wildlife survey plots, bat habitats, etc.
- Contract with Giiwedin through 2030.
- Contract includes use of PFN businesses and employment & training for PFN members during work programs.



*Winter 2025 Caribou sighting on the Wataynikaneyap Power transmission line*



### Vegetation Management

- Maintenance of Right of Way and access to the Right of Way
- Wataynikaneyap is completing engagement with First Nations to build this work plan.
- Estimated start date is late 2026 (except for section between Red Lake and Pikangikum).



## Limits of Approach

### Are you planning activities near the transmission lines?



RT064, a dead-end tower (four legged) on line segment RT, on Deer Lake First Nation Homelands

For example, using heavy equipment, tree removal, hauling oversized loads?

**There are “Limits of Approach” ;** Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission Lines are both 115 kV and 230 kV.

- 115 kV requires at least 10 ft of clearance
- 230 kV requires at least 15 ft of clearance

This means that no part of a worker or equipment (including attachments and material carried by the equipment) should cross these invisible limits.

Electricity can arc from powerlines, especially in high voltage lines, which is why the “Limits of Approach” are set at 10 ft and 15 ft.

**Always contact Wataynikaneyap Power to confirm the voltage of the lines and let us know you plan to start work in the area, by calling (807) 577-5955 or e-mail [watayinquiries@wataypower.ca](mailto:watayinquiries@wataypower.ca)**

## Wataynikaneyap Transmission System Training

### Cross Cultural Training – April 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

Opiikapawiiin Services LP provided a two-day Cross Cultural training session – Nihisitotamaakewin (“An Understanding”) to Cormorant and Giiwediiin employees on April 2 and 3, 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. Nihisitotamaakewin was designed for the workers that are entering the homelands to build and maintain the Wataynikaneyap Transmission Line.



Interested in any of the below job postings?  
Visit [www.oslp.ca/careers](http://www.oslp.ca/careers) OR email [projectjobs@oslp.ca](mailto: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
CORMORANT UTILITY SERVICES	Heavy Duty Equipment Technician
POWERTEL (A Cormorant Utility Services Company)	Accepting applications for Electricians and Powerline Technician Apprenticeships

# Summer Employment Opportunities!

We are hiring Summer Students in these areas:

- Engineering
- Environment
- Operations
- Finance
- Health & Safety
- Human Resources

Requirements:

- Applicants must be enrolled in full-time post-secondary studies for the 2025/26 school year
- Be a self-starter and work with minimal supervision
- Work well with others and willing to learn from subject matter experts
- Clear verbal and written communication skills

How to Apply:

[www.wataypower.ca/project/employment-and-careers](http://www.wataypower.ca/project/employment-and-careers)

Check out [www.wataypower.ca](http://www.wataypower.ca) for more information! While you're there, check out the Mentorship Program & Bursary Awards available!



## Lakehead University March 12, 2025



Elaine and Laura attended Lakehead University to engage with PFN students in the Gakina Nindinawemaaganag Lounge.

## Confederation College March 20, 2025



Elaine and Laura also attended a meet-and-greet with the Indigenous students at Confederation College. A delicious lunch of Bannock and Bison Burgers was included! Yum!



## Poplar Hill First Nation Gathering to Celebrate Energization – January 29, 2025



Poplar Hill assets were energized on March 12, 2024, and connected to the provincial power grid on December 17, 2024. Poplar Hill community members, as well as 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 January 29, 2025.



*A blessing for Substation S was held prior to the energization gathering. Substation blessings have been completed in communities that have held their gathering to celebrate their energizations.*



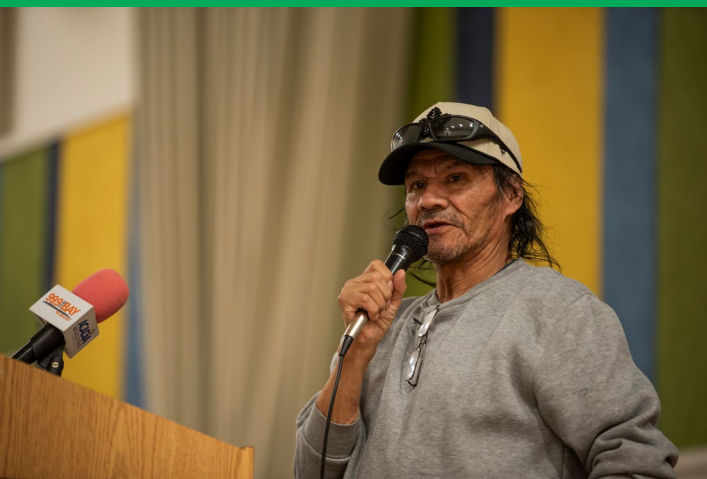
Em Cee Rita Wassaykeesick



The energy of community!



## Poplar Hill First Nation Gathering to Celebrate Energization – January 29, 2025



Poplar Hill Chief Alvin Owen remarked, "For too long, Poplar Hill has been reliant on diesel generators, which did not meet the needs of our growing community. Thanks to the connection to the grid, Poplar Hill First Nation has reliable power to all members of our community. In the past, power outages were common in the winter. We want to thank our former Chiefs that started this big project - Jacob Strang and Howard Comber. We look forward to further opportunities that reliable power will bring for our new housing and future projects. We thank everyone involved in this project that has finally brought us reliable power."

Chief Alvin Owen providing opening comments



Margaret Kenequanash and MPP Sol Mamakwa



NAN Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler



MP Patty Hajdu



Margaret and Chief Alvin Owen cutting the cake!

"The partnership that we are celebrating today is part of the largest First Nations-led grid connection infrastructure project in Canada. Congratulations to Poplar Hill First Nation and Wataynikaneyap Power on this significant milestone," stated the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Indigenous Services and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario (FedNor). "Today's celebration marks the end of the community's reliance on diesel-generated electricity, thanks to their efforts and leadership. This is an example of what's possible when all levels of government collaborate with First Nations partners, so more communities can benefit from the development opportunities that come from access to sustainable, reliable power."



## Vegetation Management Engagement

### Wunnumin Lake First Nation – January 26, 2025



Wataynikaneyap Power is starting to engage on the Project activities that will be occurring in the Operations and Maintenance stage of the Wataynikaneyap Project, including vegetation management. The Wataynikaneyap Power/OSLP team travelled to Wunnumin Lake on January 26, 2025 (page 7), and to Wapekeka on April 1, 2025 (page 8) 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 and Wunnumin Lake Chief Archie Wabasse*

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.

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 Wapekeka First Nation – April 1, 2025



*The Wataynikaneyap Power and Opiikapawin Services Team in Wapekeka on April 1, 2025*

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 and Wapekeka Chief Brennan Sainnawap*



*The team also visited the Wapekeka school to talk about the Project. Miigwetch for the invite and for all the great questions!*



## Business Readiness and Procurement of Goods and Services

## 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

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

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

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 Power X (Twitter) Page:

[www.twitter.com/wataynikaneyap](http://www.twitter.com/wataynikaneyap)

Wataynikaneyap LinkedIn Page:

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

Wataynikaneyap Power Facebook Page

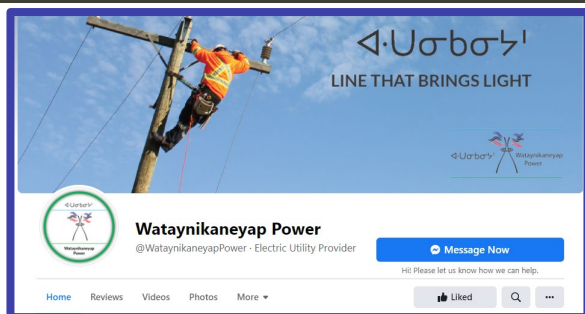
[www.facebook.com/WataynikaneyapPower](http://www.facebook.com/WataynikaneyapPower)

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

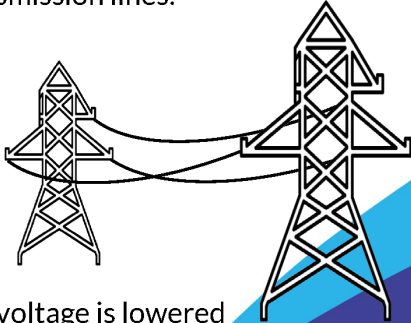
Opiikapawiin Services Facebook Page

[www.facebook.com/OpiikapawiinServicesLP](http://www.facebook.com/OpiikapawiinServicesLP)

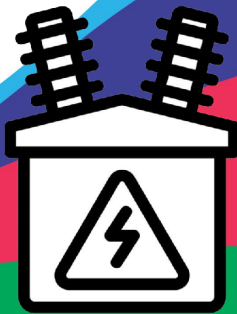
- Training opportunities with Opiikapawiin and Valard
- Job opportunities with Opiikapawiin, Valard, Wataynikaneyap, and subcontractors (when provided)
- Project announcements and company updates
- Information Flyers



Electricity travels through high-voltage transmission lines.



The voltage is lowered at a substation.



The lower-voltage electricity travels through powerlines to inside your building.



**Hydro One  
Remotes is the  
electrical  
distributor for all  
Wataynikaneyap  
communities**

If you have any questions or concerns about your electrical service, power outages, or billing, please reach out directly to Hydro One Remotes



Wataynikaneyap Power is a licensed power transmission company majority-owned by a partnership of 24 First Nations, in partnership with Fortis Inc. and other private investors. The Wataynikaneyap Power transmission system is approximately 1,800 km of transmission lines and 22 substations in northwestern Ontario, connecting remote First Nations to the provincial grid. As a transmitter, Wataynikaneyap Power provides reliable power to Hydro One Remotes and ultimately the end customer.

Wataynikaneyap Power and Hydro One Remotes  
are two separate companies. We work together  
to bring you safe, reliable electricity.

Hydro One Remotes is your contact for local power outages. (1-888-825-8707)



## Remote Communities



HydroOneRemotes.ca

## BILLING

1.800.465.5085

Remote sBilling@HydroOne.com

## SERVICE

1.888.825.8707

RemotesCustomerService@HydroOne.com

**POWER OUTAGE OR EMERGENCY CALL**

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