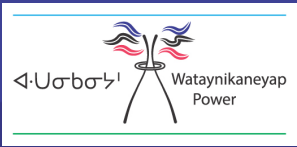


A Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission Line Tower on Mishkeegogamang homelands.



## 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 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

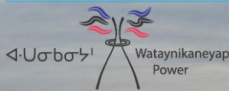
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Do you have a question or concern about Wataynikaneyap Power and/or the transmission system?



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!



## Message from Wataynikaneyap Power CEO, Margaret Kenequanash



**Welcome 2025!** Wataynikaneyap Power celebrated a huge milestone on December 11, 2024, at a gathering in Thunder Bay which included First Nation leadership, Fortis Inc. leadership, government, media, financial and regulatory representatives, and staff. All assets of the Wataynikaneyap Power transmission system were energized in May and 100% of construction activities are completed. Wataynikaneyap Power infrastructure includes 1,800 kilometres of transmission lines and 22 substations. We thank everyone for their support in bringing the First Nation vision to become a reality.

*Margaret presenting on Project Timeline and Acknowledgements at the End of Construction Gathering that occurred on December 11, 2024. See Page 6-8 for more photos of the event!*

Wataynikaneyap Power celebrated the connection of five communities in 2024: Sandy Lake, Sachigo Lake, Deer Lake, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, and Wapekeka. Poplar Hill has since been connected and we look forward to celebrating with the community in January 2025. Three communities are still to be connected, subject to completing their IPA transfer. Wataynikaneyap Power will continue to work with McDowell Lake with the goal of becoming grid connected. As of December 17, 2024, 13 of the 17 First Nations have been connected to the transmission grid. These First Nations are now off diesel as their primary source of power.

We are now working to finalize all post-construction activities by April 2025. This winter, the contractor will continue restoration and demobilization work. We expect them to work safely and respectfully, as per the Guiding Principles, which hold us all accountable. Please continue to be cautious on the winter roads this season.

Our journey to bring clean, reliable power to the First Nations has always been driven by need and unwavering vision. We were mandated to bring reliable energy to the remote First Nations. Our leadership created an ownership structure that ensured our First Nations would lead development in their Homelands, receive maximum benefits, and have meaningful participation and involvement. The Wataynikaneyap Power transmission system will be a multi-generational asset that will enable equity for First Nations and provide the People with both power and revenues for generations to come.

There are many things that we have established in advancing the Wataynikaneyap Power project, for example:

- Identifying the needs of the People
- Determining meaningful participation and involvement through capacity building, business development, employment, and training
- Building partnerships and positive working relationship with industry and government
- Establishing benchmarks of how a proponent must conduct itself on the Homelands
- Changing the landscape of how First Nations do business
- Implementing our Treaty Rights and exercising our Inherent Rights on the Homelands
- Re-learning and implementing our protocols
- Creating awareness through cross cultural teachings and ceremonies
- Learning financial models, financing, and prudence and implementing it



## Message from Wataynikaneyap Power CEO, Margaret Kenequanash

After 25 years of full operations, First Nations will own 100% of the Wataynikaneyap Power transmission system. How we achieve the vision of 100% ownership will be determined by how we conduct ourselves moving forward. We must not compromise First Nation expectations when following the due diligence and prudence required by regulators. Wataynikaneyap Power continues to work on plans and budgets to ensure sound financial management and administration, while following the mandate from the First Nations, supported by our partners. The foundation for this success will be working together, communicating, engaging, and standing by the Guiding Principles.

The vision of ownership in future projects must continue. We must continue to set a solid foundation for our young people, our future generation, and give them hope.

The north is our People's Homeland, where we exercise our jurisdiction to govern. These inherent rights were given to us by the Creator. They can never be legislated. We must ensure the sustenance and livelihood of our People by protecting the water, fish, fowl, lands, and resources. We will continue to protect the land for our future generations. The land has always been in the care of the Indigenous Peoples.

Miigwech to the keepers of the land and First Nation members, Leadership and partners Fortis Inc. Ontario and Canada, for enabling the vision and ongoing support. To all external resource workers, and to the staff at Wataynikaneyap and Opiikapawiin for your diligence, perseverance, and hard work in bringing the Peoples' vision to fruition.

***Best wishes for a safe and happy 2025!***

Sincerely, Margaret Kenequanash

## Message from Opiikapawiin Services LP



Opiikapawiin Services LP extends our heartfelt appreciation to all the Participating First Nations, Board Members, Community Liaisons, Elders, and Community Leaders for their vital contributions to the success of the Wataynikaneyap Project in 2024. Your dedication and unwavering support have been invaluable, and we are grateful for your hard work. As we welcome 2025, we are excited to continue building on our shared successes and look forward to discovering the new ventures and opportunities that lie ahead in the coming year and beyond.

With Gratitude,  
Lucie Edwards and the Opiikapawiin Services Staff

# 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 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 in 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

April 2025

# Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission System

## Major Work Programs

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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.



### 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).

## 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?

Electricity 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).

**1-888-825-8707**

[remotescustomerservice@hydroone.com](mailto:remotescustomerservice@hydroone.com)



Gathering to Celebrate End of Construction –  
December 11, 2024

On December 11, 2024, Wataynikaneyap Power held a gathering in Thunder Bay to celebrate the completion of the Wataynikaneyap Power transmission system’s construction! Thank you to everyone who joined us!

From Frank McKay, Board Chair for the Wataynikaneyap Power General Partnership: “We did it. We received our mandate from the Chiefs – bring clean, reliable power to the First Nations, and maintain ownership of any infrastructure on the Homelands. And we delivered.”

Group Photo of End of Celebration Attendees



Opening Protocols -  
Laura Calmwind and  
Jordan Quequish



Opening Prayer -  
Rebecca and Gerry  
McKay



Master of  
Ceremony,  
Adam Fiddler



Translator John  
Cutfeet



## Gathering to Celebrate End of Construction – December 11, 2024

Lucie Edwards, CEO,  
Opiikapawiin Services



NAN Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler



Nick Sherman, North  
Caribou Lake First  
Nation, and local  
musician



David Hutchens, CEO, Fortis Inc.



Gary Smith, EVP Operations &  
Innovation, Fortis Inc.



Frank McKay  
Chair, Wataynikaneyap Power GP Board  
& CEO, Windigo First Nations Council





# Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission System

## Gathering to Celebrate End of Construction – December 11, 2024



Holiday Feast!



Sol Mamakwa  
MPP, Kiiwetinoong

Marit Stiles  
Leader of the Ontario  
NDP; Leader of the  
Opposition of Ontario



Frank, Margaret, Harry Meekis, and Lucie cut the cake!



Chief Russell Wesley (Cat  
Lake) being interviewed.

TBNewsWatch,  
WawatayNews, and  
NorthernNewsWatch were  
in attendance!



Eliezar McKay, Chair,  
First Nation Limited Partnership  
(FNLP)



## Active/Recent Job Postings

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) 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 Workforce Development Planning Advisor**  
Office: (807) 474-3300 ext. 210

**OSLP Workforce Development Coordinator**  
Office: (807) 474-3300 ext. 222

## Employee Safety Recognition Day – November 29, 2024



An Employee Safety Recognition Day was held on November 29, 2024 to recognize the Health & Safety accomplishments of the Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission Line Project. Guest Speakers Mac Marcoux and Tristen Rogers were also invited to share their story. Mac Marcoux is a Canadian Paralympic skier who has achieved great success despite being visually impaired. Since 2018, he has partnered with guide Tristan Rodgers, and together they won a silver medal at the 2022 Beijing Paralympic Games before withdrawing due to Marcoux's injury. Beyond racing, they have pushed the limits of adaptive freeskiing, with their adventures featured in the film "Blind Faith", showcasing their trust, skill, and determination.

## Paminikweh-Naakacicikewin (Keepers of the Land) Training

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



**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL GRADUATES!**  
Miigwetch for all of your dedication and hard work!



**Left to Right:** Zack Harris BEAHR instructor; trainees Albert Shingebis (Mishkeegogamang); Louis Simard (Lac Seul); River Beardy (Bearskin Lake); Damon Kejick (KI); Hosea Turtle (Pikangikum); Bradley Wesley (Lac Seul); Clarence Mekanak (Bearskin Lake); Bradley Bighead (Cat Lake); Margaret Kenequanash (CEO, Wataynikaneyap Power); Laura Calmwind (Training Manager); Jordan Quequish; Lucie Edwards (CEO, Opiikapawin Services LP)



**Albert Shingebis,**  
*Mishkeegogamang First Nation*



**Louis Simard,**  
*Lac Seul First Nation*



## Paminikweh-Naakacicikewin (Keepers of the Land) Training



Bradley Bighead,  
Cat Lake First Nation



Hosea Turtle,  
Pikangikum First Nation



Clarence Mekanak,  
Bearskin Lake First Nation



Damon Kejick,  
Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug



River Beardy,  
Bearskin Lake First Nation



Bradley Wesley,  
Lac Seul First Nation



## Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig and Wapekeka First Nation Gathering to Celebrate Energization – October 28, 2024

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig and Wapekeka First Nation were both connected to the provincial power grid on December 14, 2023. KI and Wapekeka 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 October 28, 2024.



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



Chief Brennan Sainnawap, Margaret, and Chief Donny Morris

*"Congratulations!" remarks Margaret Kenequanash, CEO of Wataynikaneyap Power, remarks: "Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig and Wapekeka First Nation have worked together on energy projects for a long time; for example, the tie line built by Hydro One Remotes between the two First Nations allowed them to address their power shortage and upgraded diesel generated power. This tie line allowed the Wataynikaneyap Power transmission system to connect both communities through one substation. The strength of partnership is important. Two strong leaders advancing their energy priorities to bring reliable energy to improve quality of life and create opportunities is highly commendable."*



KI Council receiving a gift from Wataynikaneyap Power on behalf of the community





# Wataynikaneyap Transmission System Engagement & Participation 13

## Chiefs Meetings – December 11 & 12, 2024

The Participating First Nation Chief's (and proxy's) were provided with Project updates on December 11 & 12 in Thunder Bay. Joining them in the photo is David Hutchens (5<sup>th</sup> from left - CEO, Fortis Inc.) and Gary Smith (6<sup>th</sup> from left - EVP Operations & Innovation, Fortis Inc.).



## Collective Voice Forward Conference – December 17 & 18, 2024



Leaders, Elders, and key representatives from PFN communities came together in Thunder Bay on December 17-18 to discuss and provide input into the future of the Wataynikaneyap Project. Vital input was provided in the areas of education, workforce, economic, and business development, paving the way to illuminate a brighter future!

## Community Liaison Engagement – December 19, 2024

A meeting with was held on December 19 2024 with your community liaisons to engage them on Project topics and discuss future planning!





## Vegetation Management Engagement

Cat Lake First Nation  
December 4, 2024



Slate Falls Nation  
November 25, 2024

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 Slate Falls on November 25; Cat Lake on December 4; as well as to Mishkeegogamang on December 16 to engage on Vegetation Management, as well as to present an update on the Project Status and Indigenous Participation.



Mishkeegogamang First Nation -  
December 16, 2024

**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.**

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!)

Wataynikaneyap Power and Opiikapawin 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.



## Business Readiness and Procurement of Goods and Services

## Business Directory

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

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

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:

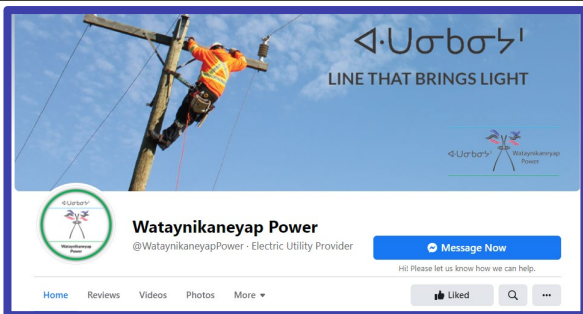
*Indigenous Participation Coordinator*  
Office: (807) 474-3300 ext. 262

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 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

