



Newsletter: September – December, 2018

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1. Strategic Direction

The OFNTSC has recently completed a strategic planning review process which has identified goals to which the Corporation will be working towards over the next five (5) years. Those priorities are:

- Organizational Stability – Review of the OFNTSC operations and services; and restructuring the OFNTSC to ensure its long-term viability
- Mandated Core Services – Supporting unaffiliated First Nations and Tribal Councils with community development by becoming a total solution provider for First Nations and Tribal Councils
- Community Development – Ensure consistent delivery of mandated core services to improve First Nations standards of living
- Client Focus – Improve client focus and satisfaction

As the OFNTSC moves forward in achieving these goals, performance measures have been identified in our strategic plan to benchmark the progress being made for these strategic goals. The OFNTSC plans to report on the progress of these strategic goals in its annual report, which is delivered each year during the All Ontario Chiefs Conference.



2. The OFNTSC is changing the way we do business, and part of this renewed approach includes ensuring our First Nations clients are aware of what we do and where we are heading. In this vein, we will be developing and distributing a series of 'position papers' for each OFNTSC service delivery area which are intended to identify issues and problems, and to map out next steps for the OFNTSC. The position papers will cover the following service areas:

- Housing and Infrastructure
- Operations and Maintenance
- Emergency Management/Preparedness
- Fire and Safety • Fuel Systems Management
- Water and Wastewater; and
- Environment (Source Water Protection, Environmental Assessments, Solid Waste Management)

Each paper will examine: the background and contemporary issues surrounding each mandated technical service area; various examples of from other jurisdictions; federal policy directions; and related information.

These reports will be updated annually to track progress on the key policy and service delivery files, in order to ensure OFNTSC is serving you, our First Nations clients, in the best way possible. Thus far, the Housing and Infrastructure position paper, in addition to the Operations and Maintenance paper have been completed. Please check www.ofntsc.org to access the papers.





3. As the digital age continues to shape the way individuals access information, the OFNTSC has recently undertaken a corporate enhancement of its brand and digital properties. The OFNTSC has made improvements to its brand to be more inclusive of the shared indigenous history of nations located in the Province of Ontario. The OFNTSC logo was also enhanced with a cleaner and modern typeface. The type face represents uniformity and continuity with the current feather and circle motif. The font of logo was aligned to give a more contemporary minimal feel of ancient indigenous simplicity. Six dots were also added for each word in the corporation's name with the goal of clarity in our communications, with OFNTSC stakeholders and a brighter future for all.

The first digital property to be enhanced is www.ofntsc.org. The OFNTSC's enhanced website had a soft launch in September at the OFNTSC's All Tribal Council Meeting. The website, using a wordpress content management system aims to simplify access to relevant information about the services the OFNTSC offers to unaffiliated/large First Nations and Tribal Councils across Ontario. Visitors can now access service information via the home page services block located in the middle of the home page. Located below our service information is the OFNTSC's news section. The news section is where new information about services offered, changes to the corporation's governance, announcements, press releases and other pertinent information can be found. We encourage you to visit www.ofntsc.org often to keep abreast of new infrastructure announcements, and current information about services and training. Included in the improvements are updated mission, vision and scope of relations statements, training calendar, board governance section, and a list of current board members.

Have a suggestion on how we can improve our website? We invite you to contact us if you have a suggestion on how we may improve our website by emailing communications@ofntsc.org.

4. FNPIEVC Asset Management Workshops Announced

The OFNTSC is announcing ten (10) First Nation Public Infrastructure Engineering Vulnerability Committee (PIEVC) workshops across the province for First Nations and Tribal Councils. The aim of the workshops is to provide First Nations communities with a First Nations infrastructure resilience toolkit. The toolkit uses industry recognized climate risk assessment principles to assess and fully document the vulnerability and impacts of First Nations infrastructure to current and future climate in a life-cycle asset management context.

The OFNTSC invites Chiefs and Councilors, Band Administrators, Public Works Managers, and individuals who operate and maintain community infrastructure in First Nations to attend these workshops. The OFNTSC invites one (1) member from First Nations and Tribal Councils to participate in these workshops. The OFNTSC will be covering lunch and accommodations for individuals who will be participating.

The workshops which began in November of 2018, will continue throughout 2019 in a variety of locations throughout Ontario. Below is a list of workshops the OFNTSC will be offering on the FNPIEVC Asset Management Workshop (Please be advised that the location and date of these workshops are subject to change. Visit ofntsc.org for the most up to date information and registration process).





January 22-24, 2019: Rama Workshop
February 25-27, 2019: London Workshop
March 26-28, 2019: Thunder Bay Workshop
April 23-25, 2019: Sudbury Workshop
May 28-30, 2019: Timmins Workshop
June 18-20, 2019: St. Ste. Marie Workshop
July 16-18, 2019: Kenora Workshop
September 17-19, 2019: Sioux Lookout Workshop
October 15-17, 2019: Fort Frances Workshop

These workshops were made possible with a partnership with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, Ontario Centre for Climate Impacts and Adaptation Resources (OCCIAR), Stantec, RSI & Engineers Canada. For a full description on the toolkit and objectives of workshop, please go to ofntsc.org.

5. OFNTSC All Tribal Council (ATC) Meeting Wrap Up

The OFNTSC recently held its annual All Tribal Council Meeting in Niagara Falls from September 18-19, 2018. The objective of the OFNTSC's ATC meeting is to provide First Nations with service updates from staff of the OFNTSC. It also provides an opportunity for government partners to provide updates on the services being delivered to First Nations.

The two-day event began with opening prayer from the Gary Parker, of the Seneca Nation followed by opening addresses from OFNTSC President Wes Bova, P.Eng., and OFNTSC's Executive Director Melanie Debassige. Presentations kicked off with a presentation from AFN's Irving Leblanc, Director of Housing, Infrastructure and Emergency Services, followed by the OFNTSC's Senior Engineer Tricia Hamilton who provided updates on the work of the tri-lateral steering committee (whose work is to reduce the number of boil water advisories in Ontario) and a presentation on water and sewage needs for Ontario First Nations. The morning closed with presentations from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), who provided a capital and housing update for the Ontario region, and a presentation from the OFNTSC's Executive Director on the strategic direction for the Corporation for the next five years.

Presentations on day one finished with updates from the AFN on Federal Drinking Water Legislation Reform, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change First Nations



drinking water initiatives, Capital Asset Housing Data Base/ Capital Asset Management System modernization project, Environmental Public Health Services Update and lastly a First Nations Market Housing Fund Update.

Day two began with service updates from the OFNTSC. Leading off the morning was Grace Martineau's Housing Update, Infrastructure Specialist Update from Tom Northardt, Climate Change and Energy Update from Bill Maloney, and a presentation from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources on the Ontario Fire smart Program. The morning continued with updates from OFNTSC's Stephanie Allen, Environment, an ISC Solid Waste Budget Update, and the morning ended with Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority presentation. The conclusion of the ATC ended with additional presentations from the OFNTSC's Operations and Maintenance, an update on the First Nations Infrastructure Resilience Toolkit, First Nations Water Commission Update, Circuit Rider Training Program Update, Engineering Services Update, Fuel Trainer Update, Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations and the meeting ended with a presentation from OFNTSC's Communications.

The OFNTSC would like to thank all the participants who came out to the ATC. Presentations that were provided at the ATC can be found on ofntsc.org under the news section for future reference. The ATC for 2019 has been tentatively scheduled for early October in Niagara Falls.





6. Entry Level course for First Nations water plant operators

Does your First Nation require more capacity for the treatment of water at your respective plant? The OFNTSC in partnership with Keewaytinook Okimakanak and the Walkerton Clean Water Centre is providing an entry level water plant operator training course (ELC) to build capacity for First Nations in their treatment of water.

Interested participants will learn a basic understanding of water characteristics and public health, water science, mathematics, treatment and distribution. The course takes place over a two-week period, with week one focusing on facilitated self-study with face-to-face instructor support. And week two will focus on classroom instruction and a hands-on component delivered by two instructors. There is no registration fee to attend, and all expenses will be reimbursed for participants.

Below is a list of times, date and locations where the course will be offered.

- Sudbury:** **Week 1** February 4-8 **Week 2** February 25 - March 1
- Fort Frances:** **Week 1** March 4-8 **Week 2** March 25-29
- Sioux Lookout:** **Week 1** April 1-5 **Week 2** April 29 - May 3
- Timmins:** **Week 1** May 6 -10 **Week 2** May 27-31
- Dryden:** **Week 1** June 3 -7 **Week 2** June 24-28
- Thunder Bay:** **Week 1** October 7-11 **Week 2** October 28 - Nov.1

For more information on this training opportunity please visit the Walkerton Clean water Centre's website at wcwc.ca/firstnationszone



Nations student in engineering studies. In total the OFNTSC provides \$6000 each year to students. These are the winners for 2018.

Justin Riemans, University of Toronto, Whitesand First Nation, Physics

Christian Gregg, Confederation College, Lac Seul First Nation, Civil Engineering Technologist

Justin McGregor, Cambrian College, Whitefish River, Civil Technology
Grayson Goodman, Confederation College, Animbigoo
Zaagi'igan Anishinabek, Environmental Technician

And the winner of the Derrick Kamanga Memorial Award is: Danilo Caron, University of British Columbia, Sagamok Anishnawbek, Civil Engineering

The OFNTSC would like to congratulate all of our winners for their hard work and determination to achieve their educational goals. Applications for the 2019 Student Achievement Awards will be available in February. Please visit www.ofntsc.org for more information on the eligibility requirements and the criteria required for applying.



7. Student Achievement Award Winners

The OFNTSC has a long history of supporting First Nations students pursuing post-secondary education in science and technology fields. For the 22nd straight year the OFNTSC offered four Student Achievement Awards to First Nations students and one Derrick Kamanga Memorial Award for a First





8. Annual Conference – Tech Nations 2019/ Student Classic

The OFNTSC will be holding its Annual Conference from August 26-29, 2019 at the Blue Mountain Resort in Collingwood, ON.

Agenda development is underway along with registration information through the OFNTSC website.

Training and presentations will be available during the event for interested participants.

Please keep checking ofntsc.org for the most current information available for the Annual Conference.

The OFNTSC will be sponsoring the following delegates to attend Tech Nations 2019:

- One (1) delegate for each Tribal Council in Ontario
- One (1) delegate for each unaffiliated First Nation in Ontario
- One (1) delegate for Large First Nations in Ontario

Each delegate will be covered for transportation, accommodations, and meals during their stay at the Annual Conference.

A shuttle service will be available for delegates to travel from Pearson Airport to the venue.

Additional delegates who attend the conference will be subject to a \$250 registration fee.

To kick off the Annual Conference, the OFNTSC will be holding its Student Classic on Monday, August 26, 2019 at 1pm at the Monterra Golf Course (located in Blue Mountain Village).

Cost to register for this event will be \$150 or \$600 for a foursome.

The Student Classic as it's become known is in support of First Nation students pursuing post-secondary education in the science and technology fields.

Hole sponsorship for this event will be available for \$600/per hole.

All proceeds raised from the Student Classic will go directly towards the Student Achievement and Derrick Kamanga Memorial Awards.

For more information on these events and how to register please go to www.ofntsc.org.



9. New OFNTSC Board Members

The governance of the OFNTSC is made up of a 24 Board of Directors who represent First Nations and Tribal Councils from across the province.

Of the 24 board of directors, the group elects a president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary who make up the officers of the OFNTSC.

Those elected Board members make up a portion of the OFNTSC's Executive Committee. The executive committee also incorporates board members from the groups of North/South Tribal Councils, Large and Unaffiliated First Nations (Please note that large First Nations are defined as First Nations with over 2500 people living on-reserve. And unaffiliated First Nations are defined as First Nations without a tribal council affiliation).

Amongst the regional grouping of the unaffiliated First Nations, communities rotate on a one (1) year basis to ensure all First Nations without a tribal council have the opportunity to sit on the OFNTSC Board of Directors.

This is to ensure Unaffiliated First Nations voices are contributing to the services that are being delivered by the OFNTSC, and are meeting the needs of unaffiliated First Nations. Last year (2018) unaffiliated First Nations were represented by Wahta Mohawks and Naothamegwanning First Nation on the OFNTSC Board of Directors. In 2019 unaffiliated First Nations will be represented by Evan Sault of the Mississaugas of the Credit River First Nation, and Norma Lesperance of the Red Rock Indian Band. The OFNTSC would like to welcome the new board members and we look forward to working with them on a variety of technical issues.

Please see a complete listing of the 2019 OFNTSC Board of Directors below.

President - Wes Bova, P.Eng. Matawa First Nations Management

Vice President – Aaron Genereaux, P.Eng. Ogemawahj Tribal Council

Secretary – Terry General, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory

Treasurer – Roger Rozon, Nookiwin Tribal Council Inc.

Exec. Committee Member – Evan Sault, Mississaugas of the Credit River First Nation

Exec. Committee Member – Norma Lesperance, Red Rock Indian Band



Exec. Committee Member – Kevin Debassige, United Chiefs and Councils of Mnidoo Mnsing

Exec. Committee Member – David Gordon, Independent First Nations Alliance

Dave Mellor, Bimose **Tribal Council**

Luke McKay, Shibogama **First Nations Council**

Paul Schisler, P.Eng., **Southern First Nations Secretariat**

William 'Bill' Assinewai, Wikwemikoong **Unceded First Nation**

Joe Meekis, Sandy Lake **First Nation**

Mark McPherson, Pwi-Di-Goo-Ne-Ya-Zhing

Ryan Small, **Mushkegowuk Tribal Council**

Irvin George, Waabnoong Bemjiwang **Association of First Nations**

Cullen Robb, Anishinabeg of Kabapiukotawangag **Resource Council**

Todd Kring, **Mohawks Bay of Quinte**

Jason Batise, **Wabun Tribal Council**

Jay Benedict, **Mohwaks of Akwesasne**

William 'Bill' Hutchinson, Keewaytinook Okimakanak

Lyle Johnson, **Bkwejwang Territory (Walpole Island)**

Chief Reginald Niganobe, **Mississauga #8 First Nation, North Shore Tribal Council**

Jonathan Salo, **Windigo First Nations Council**

10. Employment Opportunities

Have you considered a career in a technical field? Do you have a passion for assisting First Nations in the development and maintenance of critical infrastructure? Well we have a career for you. The OFNTSC has current job openings in the fields of:

Executive Assistant Communications Coordinator

For more information on these exciting career possibilities and job descriptions please go to the OFNTSC website at www.ofntsc.org/careers

