

ONTARIO  
FIRST NATIONS  
TECHNICAL  
SERVICES  
CORPORATION

ENSURING  
A CLEAN AND  
SUSTAINABLE  
ENVIRONMENT FOR  
OUR CHILDREN

■ ANNUAL REPORT

# 2003-2004



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## ■ NORTH

### Anishinaabeg of Kabapikotawanagag Resources

1. Anishinaabe of Naongashing (Big Island)
2. Anishinaabe of Wauzhushk Onigum (Rat Portage)
3. Big Grassy
4. North West Angle #33
5. North West Angle #37
6. Ojibways of Onigaming

### Bimose Tribal Council

1. Eagle Lake
2. Grassy Narrows
3. Iskutewizaagegan No. 39 (Shoal Lake #39)
4. Lac Des Mille Lacs
5. Naotkamegwanning Anishinawbe (Whitefish Bay)
6. Shoal Lake #40
7. Wabaseemoong
8. Wabauskang
9. Wabigoon
10. Washagamis Bay

### Matawa First Nations Management Inc.

1. Aroland
2. Constance Lake
3. Eabametoong (Fort Hope)
4. Ginoogaming (Long Lac #77)
5. Hornepayne
6. Long Lake #58
7. Neskantaga (Lansdowne House)
8. Nibinamik (Summer Beaver)
9. Webequie

### Pwi-Di-Goo-Zhing Ne-Yaa-Zhing Tribal Council

1. Couchiching
2. Lac La Croix
3. Naicatchewenin
4. Nicickousemenecaning (Red Dog)
5. Rainy River
6. Seine River
7. Stanjikomung

### Keewaytinook Okimakanak Tribal Council

1. Deer Lake
2. Fort Severn
3. Kee-Way-Win
4. McDowell Lake
5. North Spirit Lake
6. Poplar Hill

### Shibogama First Nations Council

1. Kasabonika
2. Kingfisher Lake
3. Wapekeka
4. Wawakapewin
5. Wunnumin Lake

### Windigo First Nations Council

1. Bearskin Lake
2. Cat Lake
3. Koocheching
4. North Caribou Lake (Round Lake)
5. Sachigo Lake
6. Saugeen Nation (Savant Lake)
7. Slate Falls
8. Whitewater Lake

### Independent First Nations Alliance

1. Kitchenumaykoosib Inninuwig (Big Trout Lake)
2. Lac Seul
3. Pikangikum
4. Whitesand

## ■ SOUTH

### Mushkegowuk Tribal Council

1. Attawapiskat
2. Chapleau Cree
3. Fort Albany
4. Kashechewan
5. Missanabie Cree
6. Moose Cree
7. Taykwa Tagamou Nation (New Post)

### Wabun Tribal Council

1. Beaverhouse
2. Brunswick House
3. Chapleau Ojibway
4. Matachewan
5. Mattagmi
6. Wahgoshig (Abitibi #70)

### North Shore Tribal Council

1. Garden River
2. Mississauga #8
3. Ojibways of Batchewana (Rankin)
4. Sagamok Anishnawbek
5. Serpent River
6. Thessalon
7. Whitefish Lake

### United Chiefs and Councils of Manitoulin

1. M'Chigeeng (West Bay)
2. Aundeck Omnikaning
3. Sheguiandah
4. Sheshegwaning
5. Whitefish River
6. Zhiibaahaasing (Cockburn)

### Waabnoong Bemjiwang Association of First Nations

1. Dokis
2. Henvey Inlet
3. Magnetawan
4. Nipissing
5. Wahnapiatae

### Southern First Nations Secretariat

1. Caldwell
2. Chippewas of Aamjiwnaang (Sarnia)
3. Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point
4. Chippewas of the Thames
5. Delaware First Nation (Moravian of the Thames)
6. Munsee-Delaware Nation
7. Oneida Nation of the Thames

### Ogemawahj Tribal Council

1. Beausoleil (Christian Island)
2. Chippewas of Georgina Island
3. Chippewas of Mnjikaning (Rama)
4. Alderville
5. Mississaugas of Scugog Island
6. Moose Deer Point

## ■ UNAFFILIATED FIRST NATIONS - SOUTH

1. Algonquins of Pikwakanagan (Golden Lake)
2. Chippewas of Nawash (Cape Croker)
3. Chippewas of Saugeen
4. Curve Lake
5. Hiawatha
6. Mississaugas of New Credit
7. Wahta Mohawks (Gibson)
8. Shawanaga
9. Temagami (Bear Island)
10. Wasauksing (Parry Island)
11. Weenusk (Peawanuck)

## ■ UNAFFILIATED FIRST NATIONS - NORTH

1. Biinjitiwabik Zaaging Anishinabek (Rocky Bay)
2. Fort William
3. Gull Bay
4. Michipocoten
5. Mishkeegogamang (New Osnaburgh)
6. Ochiichagwe'babigo'ining (Dalles)
7. Ojibways of Pic River
8. Pays Plat
9. Pic Mobert
10. Red Rock (Lake Helen)
11. Muskrat Dam
12. Marten Falls

## ■ LARGE FIRST NATIONS

1. Bkwejwanong Territory (Walpole Island)
2. Mohawk Council of Akwesasne
3. Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte (Tyendinaga)
4. Six Nations of the Grand River Territory
5. Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve
6. Sandy Lake First Nation

\*As Of June 2004

# Making Our Communities Better, Safer Places to Raise Our Children



“While OFNTSC enters its 10th year rejoicing in past successes, the staff has not rested on its laurels. It continues to advocate for solutions and to create a better world through technology for First Nations.”

I am pleased to present the 2003 - 2004 Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation Annual Report.

As it enters into its 10th year of service to the First Nations of Ontario this is a special time for OFNTSC. On a personal note, it is significant for me as well as I have worked with OFNTSC since its first year of operation. They have been exhilarating years and they have passed like a heartbeat.

This past year has also been a very busy time for us.

OFNTSC was pleased to have its mandate renewed at the 2003 All Ontario Chiefs Conference held in Whitefish Lake First Nation. With this endorsement, I have striven to implement the resolutions passed at the meeting. I am happy to report that OFNTSC staff has embraced the challenge with significant success.

Noteworthy has been our work in the areas of water safety. We have stepped up our efforts to improve water treatment facilities and have contracted for additional trainers for the Circuit Rider Training Program. These efforts were bolstered by the joint OFNTSC – INAC Water Workshop in Collingwood. In addition, OFNTSC remains dedicated to source water protection in Ontario.

The OFNTSC Earthkeepers Waste Management Training program continues to set the standard for environment protection in Ontario. In addition, OFNTSC continues to advocate for energy efficient homes through the delivery of R-2000 and EnerGuide for Homes training sessions for First Nation communities. We have also delivered ten sessions on Contract Management and Administration to 179 First Nation participants this past year.

OFNTSC continues to promote the efficiencies of its CAMS2000 software while our Fire and Safety Protection program has worked with HRSD to eliminate the backlog of fire inspections in Ontario.

OFNTSC understands this is a time of governmental fiscal restraint. Thus it is more important than ever that we maintain a positive dialogue with our partners in government. I am prepared to meet the challenge of budgetary limitations and will continue to press for the revenues necessary to provide our communities with the best services possible.

While OFNTSC enters its 10th year rejoicing in past successes, the staff has not rested on its laurels. It continues to advocate for solutions and to create a better world through technology for First Nations. OFNTSC has forged ahead with new projects and new initiatives. It has embarked on new and exciting programs that will make our communities better, safer places to raise our children in the 21st century. OFNTSC staff has shown they care for our people and our children. Our membership can be secure in the knowledge that OFNTSC expertise is available to them when they need it.

OFNTSC continues to get better at what it does and, as a result, it enjoys a formidable reputation with First Nation governments, the industry and with three levels of government. I am proud to have worked at OFNTSC for the past nine years and I look forward to benefiting from the wisdom and experience of our staff for many more years.

Jason Batise  
President

# Much to be Proud of – Much to be Done

**A**s the incoming Executive Director, it gives me great pleasure to provide the following message as part of the 9th Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC) Annual Report for 2003-2004.

This is a dynamic time to step into this position, especially given the brief hiatus resulting from the departure of the former Executive Director. It speaks to the strength of the corporation that both Branch Managers were able to step in as acting Executive Directors in the interim.

My learning curve over the first few months has been steep – and I don't expect it to ease much over the next while, given our mandate and the range of technical advisory services we provide to our First Nation clients in Ontario. I welcome new challenges that come our way and to learn of new concepts or ideas each day on the job.

One of my first observations, when I came on board, was to recognize the wealth of talent readily available, as well as the dedication of the staff in both the Thunder Bay and Toronto Service Centres. It is my good fortune to have stepped into an organization with such a solid reputation and high degree of service – both of which are unparalleled in Canada. It was also encouraging to meet with the Board of Directors to discuss OFNTSC's purpose and reflect on the direction the corporation might take in the future.

As we approach our 10th year in operation, our organization continues to step up to the plate to respond successfully to the many, and varied, challenges it has faced and, in doing so, continues to fulfill all requirements on deliverables requested by its funding partners.

Like any organization, in these days of limited financial resources, OFNTSC has to deal with certain external challenges. But for every door that closes another opens and I prefer to view these "challenges" as opportunities.

No matter how good an organization, it cannot become complacent. Thus, I see a clear need to revisit the OFNTSC longer-term strategic business plan. It will be a major undertaking requiring considerable effort from staff, the Board of

Directors, strategic allies and even some effort from our funding partners. At the end of the day, a strategic game plan will be created that will allow us to think and act in unity and with strength and determination. It will enable OFNTSC to influence the future rather than simply react to it. Negative impacts will be lessened; opportunities enhanced.

For example, I took heart at a recent planning/brainstorming session with OFNTSC engineers which provided us with an excellent opportunity to review our operations. In a frank discussion we dissected what was working and what needed to be improved. It was a frank, and healthy, exchange of ideas which, at the end of the day, engendered considerable optimism. Over the next few months, similar discussions will be conducted with the entire organization. It will be an inclusive exercise as staff opinions, concerns and suggestions will be sought as part of the planning process leading to the development of a strategic business plan. Ideally, every employee will then be a stakeholder in OFNTSC, everyone will be able to "buy-in" to an enhanced corporate team spirit.

But there is much to be done in other areas as well. I am looking forward to the prospect of renegotiating our multi-year funding agreement with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). Given Treasury Board's revised policy on transfer payments, which is meant to ensure due diligence, OFNTSC's core funding arrangement may be reduced to single year arrangement rather than our current multi-year contract. It could have an impact on our ability to effectively carry out our game plan, especially for the future.

I would also like to see more effective internal communications, reinvigorated monthly and quarterly newsletters, a major public outreach campaign promoting science and technology education aimed at youth, marketing brochures

and press releases to gain high level visibility, an effective campaign to work with the media, the placement of feature articles in various publications and an improved governmental liaison strategy. All in all, OFNTSC will have a vigorous and comprehensive communications strategy.

As strategic partnerships are vital to the success of our organization, it is imperative that we build, and maintain, strong relationships with our federal stakeholders and, where necessary, with the provincial government. We can make

improvements to our relationship with industry as well. In addition, I have also begun exploratory discussions with stakeholders from other provinces on expanding OFNTSC's profile at the national level.

The OFNTSC Annual Conference provides us with a tremendous opportunity to showcase our skills

and expertise to the world. It allows us to "show our stuff" to industry, our partners in government, similar organizations and to the public. I want to ensure the upcoming annual conference and tradeshow in September will be the best yet.

I am also very keen on focusing some of my energy on the housing sector to revive the high profile and professional stature it once enjoyed.

Finally, as we continue to face change and challenges, it is important to recognize that we are not alone. Other professional organizations are facing similar challenges – and opportunities. Many of them are looking to us for vision, so let's lead the way by demonstrating our commitment to stay the course, to serve our clients and work towards self-sufficiency for all First Nations in Ontario.



Michael Nepinak  
*Executive Director*

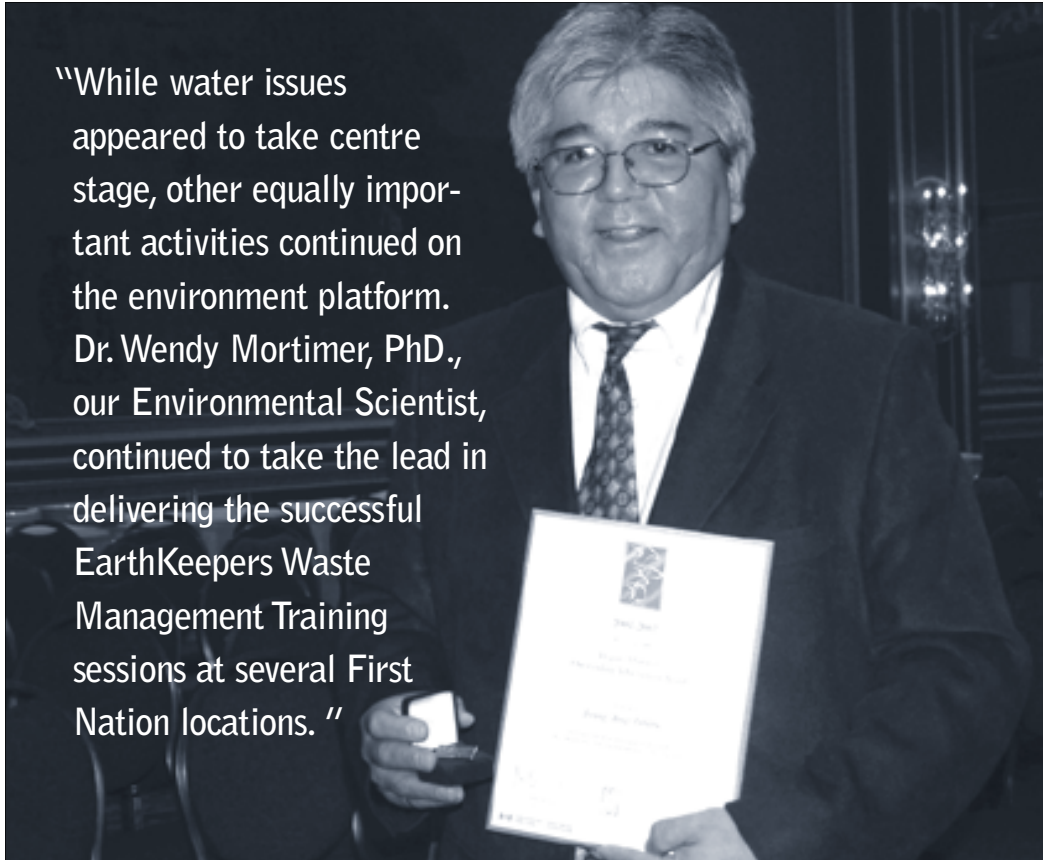
# Toronto Service Centre Branch Manager's Report

In 2003/2004, the full effects of Justice O'Connor's recommendations from the Walkerton inquiry began to impact the First Nations water industry. In response to this the Toronto Service Centre continued to maintain its focus in addressing the challenges facing First Nations water and wastewater operations. Advances were made in opening up dialogue and cooperation with the provincial Ministry of the Environment through several meetings with the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Environment. Mr. Derrick Kamanga, P.Eng, Engineer Quality Assurance was appointed to the Source Water Protection Advisory Committee and subsequently to the Technical Committee.

In response to the findings of the Risk Assessment of First Nations Water and Wastewater facilities, OFNTSC stepped up its Circuit Rider Training Program by contracting additional trainers to visit and carry out hands-on training of the 61 high risk communities identified in the study. In addition, the Corporation delivered Operator in Training sessions which resulted in over 90 First Nation Operators in Training through the efforts of Mr. Mohammed Karim, Circuit Rider Coordinator and Trouble Shooter.

In May 2003, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Health Canada and Environment Canada jointly announced \$600 million in new funding targeted towards improving the quality of water and wastewater treatment in First Nations communities. In October of 2003 OFNTSC and INAC jointly delivered a Water Workshop at the Blue Mountain Resort in Collingwood. The purpose of this workshop was to provide a forum for First Nation technical service providers to comment and offer recommendations to INAC on the strategy.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (Ontario Region) applied Ontario's share of this funding by carrying out detailed Engineering Assessments on 16 water treatment plants, increasing O&M fund-



"While water issues appeared to take centre stage, other equally important activities continued on the environment platform. Dr. Wendy Mortimer, PhD., our Environmental Scientist, continued to take the lead in delivering the successful EarthKeepers Waste Management Training sessions at several First Nation locations."

ing for water treatment plants and supporting First Nations operator certification through a training subsidy. INAC (Ontario Region) also reimbursed OFNTSC for the costs of the enhanced Circuit Rider Training and the Operator in Training courses. Later In the fiscal year INAC announced that it would support the continuation of the enhanced Circuit Rider Training Program in the new fiscal year.

OFNTSC continued other initiatives such as completing the Operator in Training Manual, the classification of the majority of Ontario First Nation's water treatment plants and the completion of an Operator Salary survey.

While water issues appeared to take centre stage, other equally important activities continued on the environment platform. Dr. Wendy

Mortimer, PhD., our Environmental Scientist, continued to take the lead in delivering the successful EarthKeepers Waste Management Training sessions at several First Nation locations. INAC Environment provided the funding for these sessions.

A similar training session called EarthKeepers Fuel Systems Management was designed to produce a community emergency response plan for fuel spills, with individuals trained in spills response, a tank inventory and improved fuel management practices. It was developed following the successful EarthKeepers model. Environment Canada supported and provided advice in the development of the curriculum. This pilot was started in 2003 and continues into

*Continued*

“I want to thank all the Toronto Service Centre staff for their dedication and the extra effort they gave to making sure that our clients receive the best services available. We all look forward to meeting the ever increasing challenges that changes in technology, building practices, and Federal and Provincial regulations will bring.”

2004/2005. Again the majority of the funding will be provided by INAC (Ontario Region).

The success of these collaborative efforts between OFNTSC, Environment Canada and INAC demonstrates the ongoing commitment by all parties to working in partnership.

Housing also figured prominently as OFNTSC was successful in getting two resolutions passed at the All Ontario Chiefs Conference in June. The first one addressed the report of the Auditor General of Canada, Chapter 6 – Federal Government Support to First Nations – Housing on Reserves. Among the conclusions of the report was that despite numerous studies about on-reserve housing and a significant investment of federal funds, a critical shortage of adequate housing to accommodate a young and growing on-reserve population continues to exist. The second resolution received support from the Chiefs-in-Assembly to re-establish the Ontario First Nations Steering Committee on Housing.

The OFNTSC mandate to providing training to its clients involved increasing the emphasis on training First Nation housing professionals in better building techniques and more energy efficient homes. Through a contribution agreement with Natural Resources Canada, OFNTSC facilitated the delivery of several R2000 and EnerGuide for Homes training sessions. Infrastructure Specialists Tom Northardt and James Doxtdator, C.E.T. recognized the value of this program and took the required training to become R2000 Professionals and EnerGuide Evaluators. Their dedication and professional approach will ensure that these building concepts are passed on to their Unaffiliated First Nation clients.

Additionally, in partnership with CMHC, several housing related courses were delivered to

our Toronto Service Centre clients. Most notably planning got underway on the delivery of the OFNTSC's NBC Part 9 Designate course. This was successfully delivered to 16 trainees in May 2004.

Another training initiative saw the successful delivery of 10 sessions of the Contract Management and Administration course to 179 participants across the province.

Other areas of service delivery involved working with Human Resources Development Canada, now Department of Human Resources and Skills Development (HRSD), in a concerted effort by its staff to address the backlog of fire inspections for First Nation buildings in Ontario. With support from Brian Staats, OFNTSC Fire and Safety Officer, HRSD developed a Northern Strategy designed to significantly reduce this backlog.

In the area of Operations and Maintenance, Elmer Lickers continued to promote the value of the CAMS2000 software by delivering on-site training for CAMS and the Conditional Assessment Housing Database (CAHD) to all clients during the year. Serious interest in this software was shown by INAC (B.C. Region), Samson Cree First Nation in Alberta and the Prince Albert Grand Council. With the release of INAC's Long Term Capital Plan in May 2003 there will be greater need for appropriate software to address the increased reporting requirements.

In closing, I want to thank all the Toronto Service Centre staff for their dedication and the extra effort they gave to making sure that our clients receive the best services available. We all look forward to meeting the ever increasing challenges that changes in technology, building practices, and Federal and Provincial regulations will bring.

Lastly, we will be relocating our offices in June 2004. We welcome all our clients to visit us at our new location at 111 Peter Street, Suite 606, Toronto, Ontario.

*Regards,*  
 IRVING "BING" LEBLANC, P.ENG.,  
*Branch Manager, Toronto Service Centre*

# Branch Manager's Report

This has been a busy and very rewarding year. It could not have been possible without the efforts my colleagues at the Thunder Bay Service Centre and I would like to take this opportunity to extend my deepest appreciation to them. They have given freely of their time and have surpassed all expectations in service delivery to our communities. It is through their hard work and dedication that makes OFNTSC a leader in providing technical advisory services to our First Nation clients.

By working together with staff from our southern office as well as both federal and provincial agencies, we have accomplished much throughout the past year. I know my staff will join me in looking forward to a busy and progressive new year.

## ■ ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This year's Annual Conference was held in the north and I am pleased to say that it was a tremendous success. Good old northern hospitality prevailed to everyone's pleasure and we look forward to next year's meeting in Niagara Falls.

During the conference OFNTSC President Mr. Jason Batise and Chiefs of Ontario Regional Chief Charles Fox presented OFNTSC Student Awards to Mr. Clarence Meekis and Ms. Sylvia Coleman.

Regional Chief Charles Fox added his family's support to this event by announcing additional funds, provided by the Fox family, to be added to the existing bursary provided by OFNTSC. The additional Fox family support was made to honour the memory of Daryl Fox.

The dinner for this year's event was graciously sponsored by Aboriginal Business Canada. Other sponsors included INAC, Health Canada NRCan, Environment Canada and consultants such as Wardrop Technologies and Neegan Burnside. OFNTSC extends our appreciation for this financial assistance.

## ■ SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

At the request of the Constance Lake First Nation, OFNTSC was happy to be invited to participate in their first ever Constance Lake First Nation Career Fair.

The OFNTSC Skills Development officer, Kevin Sherlock, and Circuit Rider trainer, Frank Michon Jr., were on hand to take part in this event. The goal of OFNTSC is to raise awareness of the opportunities for the First Nation youth to get involved in technical careers.

OFNTSC is committed to supporting First Nations as they work with their youth to promote career awareness. The organization has developed an on-line website called CoolCareers.ca to promote careers in science and technology for youth.

## ■ 2ND ANNUAL NORTHERN FIRST NATIONS HOUSING CONFERENCE

The 2nd Annual First Nations Northern Housing Conference was held this year on February 17th – 19th in Thunder Bay at the Prince Arthur Waterfront Hotel and Suites.

The event was an even bigger success than last years and featured an expanded two day trade show covering 16 housing topics and introducing a Recognition Awards Program dealing with innovative people and projects relating to housing issues in Northern First Nations Communities.

## ■ AWWAO RECOGNITION

In the recognition of OFNTSC's continued support for First Nation water and wastewater plant operators, Mr. Joe Francis, Chair of AWWAO and Mr. Ian Fortin, Vice-Chair of AWWAO gave a token of their appreciation to Mr. Irving LeBlanc, Branch Manager, OFNTSC – Toronto Service Centre and Mr. Paul Seguin, Branch Manager, OFNTSC – Thunder Bay Service Centre.

Mr. Leblanc and Mr. Seguin accepted these awards on behalf of their staff members in each of their respective branch offices.

## ■ BULK FUEL HANDLING PROGRAM – PM3 Courses

The OFNTSC Fuel Trainer has been instrumental in the coordination of Petroleum Mechanic certification courses for Ontario First Nations. To date three Petroleum Mechanic certification courses have been

offered as part of the Circuit Rider Training Program.

The most recent course was held in Thunder Bay the week of March 22 to 26, 2004. These certification courses have been made possible through joint funding received from INAC and Environment Canada. Jim Mackie from Fuel Safety Consultants has conducted the training for all three sessions. Participants at the end of the course were able to write exams to receive either their Petroleum Mechanic Helper or Petroleum Mechanic Level 3 designation.

This training has successfully increased the level of awareness regarding fuel handling and has enhanced overall improvements to the operation and maintenance of bulk fuel facilities. Furthermore, the number of requests received for additional training by participating First Nations training, indicate that this program is of significant value to their communities.

Paul Seguin, *Branch Manager*  
Thunder Bay Service Centre



# A NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON CLEAN WATER

In May 2003, OFNTSC met in Quebec City with representatives from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Health Canada, Environment Canada and First Nations organizations to devise a more efficient means of communicating vital issues concerning water quality to their respective publics.

Existing regional communications strategies were examined and communication gaps identified as participants pondered the importance of a safe water supply in their efforts to create a plan to improve public awareness of this vital issue. Regional participants presented updates on actions they have taken to disseminate public awareness materials to their constituents.

The development of a more formal, and structured, communications strategy remained first and foremost as OFNTSC discussed its strategy, based on prior discussions with its provincial partners: INAC (Ontario Region), Health Canada, OGNTSC, AWWAO and the Chiefs of Ontario, with an appreciative audience. The national representatives were impressed by the initiatives taken by OFNTSC and AWWAO.

While AWWAO has delivered its message through a newsletter, regional meetings and other publications, OFNTSC has relied heavily on its website, Special Bulletins and its newsletter, "New Directions." At their request, samples of their publications were distributed to delegates to use as templates for their regional communications strategies.

OFNTSC is pleased that, through on-going and far reaching dialogue with its partners, it has emerged as a leader in public awareness initiatives concerning clean water supplies across Canada. ■



## FIRST NATIONS WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

### ■ WATER WORKSHOP SEEKS SOLUTIONS

OFNTSC, in collaboration with the department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), hosted a technical workshop on the federal Water Quality Strategy at Blue Mountain Resort in Collingwood, Ontario.

Participants in the workshop were primarily from First Nations technical organizations involved in the First Nations Water and Wastewater sector in Ontario, non-governmental organizations, and key federal and provincial agencies.

The purpose of the workshop was to provide an opportunity for discussion and guidance on key issues and priorities within the proposed implementation plan of the federal government's seven point First Nations Water Management Strategy (FNWMS) and to identify gaps in the strategy.

The five year FNWMS was established in April 2002 by INAC, Health Canada and Environment Canada. The strategy was designed to address crucial elements of sound water quality management using a multi-barrier approach. Elements included a set of clearly defined standards, appropriate infrastructure, efficient and effective operation and maintenance. It examined the need

for trained and certified operators and a strong, transparent compliance regime, including regular inspections, monitoring and reporting.

Delegates were provided with a common base of current information and opportunities to discuss the components of the federal strategy. Plenary presentations examined developments within the strategy, related issues and activities being pursued by First Nations organizations within the Water and Wastewater sector in Ontario as well as the interests and roles of other stakeholders. Moderated workgroups examined each of the seven components of the federal strategy. The meeting concluded with a discussion of outcomes and next steps.

The OFNTSC delegate, Derrick Kamanga, reviewed current initiatives such as emergency response, wells and sewage in response to developments in the areas of training and certification. CRTP improvements, Manuals, and Hub-models, 'source to tap' engineering assessment reports and the establishment and enforcement of standards and regulations under the Safe Drinking Water Act were reviewed in detail. He also presented perspectives on how efforts to meet with the INAC minister, multi-year and

multi-million dollar project proposals related to the content and implementation of the federal water strategy.

OFNTSC was able to identify gaps within the federal water strategy. In general terms the gaps related to the need for:

- Source water protection and watershed management
- Funding and support for plant assessments
- An asset database management
- Engagement of leadership
- Definition of protocols
- Approval of models and manuals
- Provision of actual cost data for operation/maintenance, and
- A federal/provincial/First Nation tripartite agreement on water management strategy

OFNTSC was pleased that it was able to offer a forum for its clients to provide technical comments to INAC on the First Nations Water Management Strategy, especially in noting that the proposed standards require some strengthening on the design of Water Treatment facilities. OFNTSC delegates were also pleased that new standards will take into consideration source protection as well as training and certification for plant operators. It is still a concern of OFNTSC that punitive measures for First Nations that lack trained plant operators at this time be applied with sensitivity and reason.

## ■ RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS

Public awareness materials on water issues available through OFNTSC are regular one-page Water Bulletins distributed to all First Nations. They are available for downloading on the OFNTSC website.

In addition, the popular and recently published *Emergency Response Plan Guide* produced by Environment Canada, Health Canada, INAC, Chiefs of Ontario, AWWAO and OFNTSC has also been distributed to Operators and Band Administrators. ■

# WATER AND WASTEWATER QUALITY INITIATIVES

## ■ ENGINEERING ASSESSMENT

In 2002-2003, the OFNTSC quality assurance engineering team initiated a series of steps to address water quality issues among Ontario First Nations. It developed comprehensive terms of reference, based on the most stringent "best management" standards, to be utilized in the hiring of professional engineering firms to prepare assessments of water supply plants.

Fifteen First Nations water supply systems were identified as in need of engineering assessments. Four consulting engineering firms were retained to conduct the studies and submit short and long term recommendations pertinent to the existing conditions of water supply plants. OFNTSC also determined costs for upgrades.

Phase III of the Engineering Assessment upgrades for First Nation community water supply systems has been initiated and is currently reviewing immediate and long term remediation work. In addition, OFNTSC is evaluating the consulting engineers and project management firms currently providing services to First Nations during the implementation phase.

OFNTSC continues to ensure that engineering information, project management, consultant proposals and other services are provided in accordance with the requirements of the engineering assessment recommendations and in keeping with the best interests, values and traditions of First Nations.

Terms of References for the supply of services are continually updated to suit the requirements of First Nations. Prominent among them are terms of reference for a Hydrogeological study as well as a Water Treatment study. Further reviews are underway for other terms of reference depending upon the First Nations water and wastewater requirements. At present, terms of reference have been prepared to conduct an engineering assessment of wastewater systems.

OFNTSC has also initiated a study to review the salary grid and job descriptions for each class of plant operator. The report makes recommendations regarding the salary structure for each class

of water and wastewater plant operator and highlights their roles and responsibilities. The report is currently being reviewed for approval and use by First Nations clients.

## ■ TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION "HUB MODEL"

OFNTSC has created a Hub Model entailing process optimization, trouble-shooting and the transfer of plant operations oversight to Tribal Councils for the training of plant operators. A detailed proposal on training and certification of operators has been submitted to INAC for review.

The Hub Model highlights the need for continuous education, training and certification for First Nation operators.

## ■ WATERSHED BASED SOURCE PROTECTION PLANNING

As the province of Ontario prepares legislation to protect the provincial water supply, OFNTSC continues to promote the advantages of protecting drinking water at its source.

In partnership with the Chiefs of Ontario, OFNTSC has appointed its quality assurance engineer to the Ministry of Environment's committee on Source Protection Planning. This will ensure strong technical representation for First Nations with questions about various watershed protection planning programs currently under way. OFNTSC will also ensure that First Nations issues and concerns are addressed at the Source Protection Planning technical committee.

OFNTSC will continue to urge further meetings between themselves, the Chiefs of Ontario and other parties to develop First Nation positions regarding the Ministry of Environment's Source Protection Planning initiatives.

## ■ NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS (NOS)

Consultations continue regarding the development of national occupational standards for water and wastewater at the Canadian Council for

*Continued*

## WATER AND WASTEWATER QUALITY INITIATIVES

(Continued)

Human Resources in the Environment Industry (CCHREI). OFNTSC provides technical services to the committee to ensure that the standards, when finalized, will take into consideration the need and requirements of First Nation operators.

### ■ TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICES ON ENGINEERING PROJECTS

OFNTSC continues to provide First Nation clients with technical engineering advice regarding design, water treatment studies and project management.

#### PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- Algonquins of Pikwakanagan Water service Project
- Garden River First Nation Distribution System Upgrade
- Seine River First Nation Water Treatability Study
- Hiawatha First Nation Capital Planning Study
- Wasauksing First Nation Water Supply and Swing Bridge project
- Mohawks of Akwesasne Cornwall island water Treatment Plant
- Ochiichagwe'babigo'ining First Nation (Dalles)
- Water Treatment and Servicing Project (Dalles)

- Six Nations Booster Pumping Station Report review
- Peawanuck Water Hardness Study - Weenusk First Nation
- Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve - review of Water Treatability Study for Pretreatment and Raw Water Source Alternatives Assessment
- Chaupleau Cree First Nation WTP Upgrade
- Cat Lake and Weagamow Treatment Systems

### ■ LOCAL LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP STUDY

The quality assurance engineering team is overseeing the project management of four consultants currently undertaking a labour market study to determine the present and future needs of First Nation plant operators in Ontario.

### ■ BEST MANAGEMENT STANDARDS AND PRACTICES

OFNTSC continues to review the “Best Management Standards and Practices” for water distribution pipe network systems, sewers and related appurtenances. The information acquired will be provided to First Nation clients. ■

## OFNTSC Executive Meets With Former INAC Minister

The OFNTSC Executive Committee met with former INAC Minister Robert Nault and his staff at Red Lake Ontario, August 6, 2003, as part of a series of meetings implemented to share information on issues and mutual concerns.

OFNTSC President Jason Batise updated the minister on a number of practical solutions OFNTSC has created to deal with specific First Nation issues and challenges. A lively exchange occurred between members of the executive, OFNTSC technical staff and the minister regarding the Circuit Riders Training Program, the OFNTSC “Hub Model,” Operator-in-Training programs and the improvement of water and wastewater treatment plants - especially training for operators.



Minister Nault noted that he would like to see the development of Centres of Excellence where First Nation people could take courses to upgrade skills, receive training in administration and public service and learn to become police enforcement officers and By-law inspectors. “It would be,” he said, “a way to increase the capacity of First Nation peoples.

He also added that the role of Tribal Councils

and OFNTSC may be changing as First Nations create more capacity within their communities. He did say he supported the enhancement of the Tribal Council’s role and he encouraged OFNTSC to get involved in that process.

Minister Nault challenged OFNTSC to develop policies and By-laws to deal with water and wastewater compliance. He also urged OFNTSC to develop a position regarding the proposed INAC-OFNTSC five year agreement. Since that meeting in Red Lake, INAC has indicated it will revise the former five year agreement and institute one year programs in its place.

OFNTSC especially looks forward to discussing this matter with INAC. It also wishes to establish future meetings with INAC and will investigate means whereby a more formal relationship and on-going may be forged with the new INAC minister. ■



# OPERATOR-IN-TRAINING

## Certification and Licensing

**O**FNSTC continues to take a lead role in providing training for First Nation water and wastewater plant operators in Ontario. In 2003-2004, it organized and administered seven Operator-In-Training (OIT) workshop and training sessions for First Nation water plant operators across northern and southern Ontario.

The popular sessions, offered in Barrie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Timmins and Dryden, drew 107 registered participants who wrote the OIT licensing examinations. Lexicon Environmental Inc. was contracted to deliver the courses while the licensing examinations were administered by OFNTSC. The process was approved by the Ontario Environmental Training Consortium, the Certification and Licensing Agency for Ontario.

In 2002-2003, 99 participants obtained their OIT certification as water plant operators – a first step towards licensing and certification. In addition, 47 applicants have expressed interest in an additional two OIT courses and two Class Licensing courses for First Nation plant operators scheduled for 2004.

OFNTSC recognizes the importance of recommendations of the Walkerton Report which

emphasized the importance of trained individuals in the operation of community water and wastewater plants. Part Two of the report strongly recommended that waterworks operators must have at least a grade 12 education and pass an examination provided by the Ontario Environmental Training Consortium (OETC). OFNTSC administers this examination for First Nations in Ontario.

Updating and organizing the Ontario First Nations' water and wastewater treatment plants is a significant undertaking and OFNTSC continues to seek additional resources to address those First Nation communities in high risk situations who lack adequate support services.

In doing so, OFNTSC has embarked upon an expanded Circuit Rider Training Program (CRTP) by hiring external trainers in 2002-2003. MacViro Consultants and the Ontario Clean Water Agency were contracted to provide CRTP to 55 high risk First Nation communities.

In addition, portable monitoring equipment such as Hach 2100 Turbidimeters, DR890 Colorimeters and pH meters were purchased and distributed to the high risk communities with water plants. INAC has provided funding for the expanded program and the purchase of the portable monitoring equipment. ■

**In 2002-2003, 99 participants obtained their OIT certification as water plant operators – a first step towards licensing and certification. In addition, 47 applicants have expressed interest in an additional two OIT courses and two Class Licensing courses for First Nation plant operators scheduled for 2004.**

# TYCOP

## Technical Youth Career Outreach Project

**O**FNTSC recognizes the need to find qualified aboriginal people to staff key positions such as engineers, environmental scientists and technologists within First Nations communities. Aboriginal people need to be encouraged to enter science and technology based occupations so First Nations can be self reliant in technical affairs in a manner that is culturally appropriate and best suited to their needs.

To address this need, OFNTSC initiated the Technical Youth Career Outreach Project (TYCOP) on August 22nd, 2003. Through cost sharing funding from Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment and Training, Robert Ryan was hired as TYCOP coordinator.

While the official launch was covered by the media at the Miziwe Biik offices in November 2003, the project was previewed at a Special Chiefs' Conference in Hamilton in October, 2003, where it received significant praise from the Chiefs-in-Assembly.

The innovative program went on the road to the Toronto SkyDome for Pow Wow 2003, the

Native Teachers' Conference at the Talisman Resort in Kimberly and career fairs in Pelican Falls and Thunder Bay Ontario. It is also featured prominently on the CoolCareers.ca website.

This program joins other OFNTSC education and training initiatives including the Circuit Rider Training Program, the Local Labour Market Partnership, and the Virtual Career Fair (CoolCareers.ca).

To encourage more youth to pursue careers in science and technology OFNTSC is delivering the message to them to stay in school and consider a career in science and technology. To help deliver this message OFNTSC has created a Science and Technology Education and Careers kit to be sent to all First Nation administrative offices in Ontario. Included with this kit are attractive TYCOP promotional role model posters featuring young aboriginal people. It is also distributed at career fairs and is available to interested parties upon request.

These role models attend many of the OFNTSC outreach events where they meet



young people and their families. Currently the four women and five men who make up the cadre of role models work throughout Ontario in housing and infrastructure, environment, engineering, technical service administration, and information technology.

Their pictures and career information are featured on our corporate website and on CoolCareers.ca.

It is possible to nominate TYCOP role model candidates by downloading, completing, and returning nomination forms available on the OFNTSC website, or by completing an on-line nomination form on the CoolCareers.ca website. The deadline is July 31, 2004. ■

## COOL CAREERS

**T**raditionally few aboriginal youth have considered enrolling in post-secondary science and technology programs. OFNTSC has taken steps to alleviate this shortage of technically and scientifically skilled people.

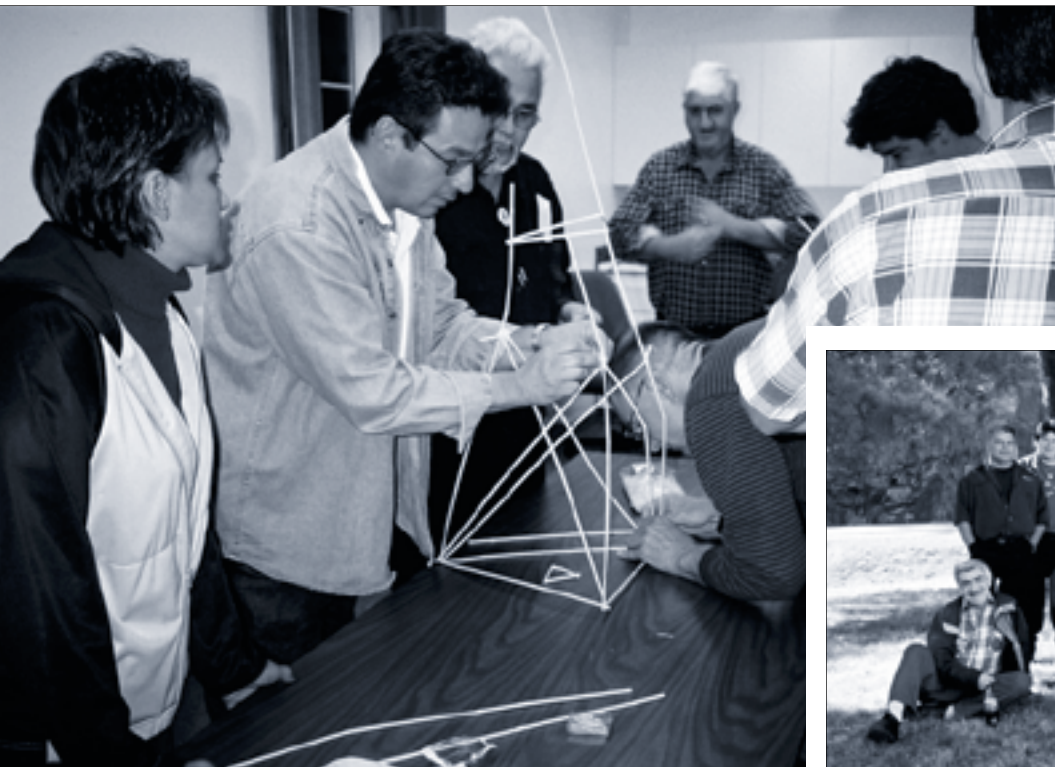
One of the projects integral to the OFNTSC Youth Initiative is the development of an online resource to provide information and direction on science and technology careers. CoolCareers.ca was created as an informative and interesting web-based resource with a focus on youth who may be interested in a scientific or

technical career in Ontario. The site is designed to be easily accessible, entertaining, easy to use, and populated with relevant information for all site users. The intended audience for this product is aboriginal youth, their parents/guardians and educators across Ontario. This under-served group will have access to the resource through Industry Canada's First Nations SchoolNet and other broadband or dial-up connections.

CoolCareers.ca offers the user opportunities to discover information on scientific and technology-based careers. This would include information on career opportunities, educa-

tional prerequisites, educational programming, institutions, and support mechanisms available in the province. In addition, the site will be expanded to include information on emerging sectors of the economy, availability of scholarships and bursaries and motivational material, including role model features and activity-based areas.

CoolCareers.ca also includes general facts highlighting the need for Aboriginal people to fill the skills shortage in Canada over the coming years.



# Environment Programs

**O**FNTSC continues to provide up to date technical advisory services to First Nations in the area of environmental protection. In addition to providing advice and guidance, OFNTSC offers training programs in the areas of solid waste management, fuel handling, emergency response, environmental sampling and analysis.

## ■ EARTH KEEPERS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Earth Keepers is a learning program designed to promote sustainable solid waste (garbage) management in First Nation communities. This program has been developed by OFNTSC, in consultation with many First Nation communities.

The waste generated by our ancestors was derived from natural products that were all biodegradable. Wastes were simply returned to the earth where they naturally decomposed. However, new lifestyles have altered our communities and we now have a 'garbage problem'.

Wastes such as plastic and metals, that do not biodegrade, are commonplace in our homes and in our 'dumps'. Our careless disposal of garbage is creating a number of aesthetic and environmental impacts, including leachate that seeps into the earth and contaminates ground-water supplies. Barrel burning and burning garbage in our wood stoves and at our dumps is also having a negative impact on the quality of the air we breathe.

## ■ KEY CONCEPTS OF THE EARTH KEEPERS PROGRAM

The Earth Keepers Program is based on four key concepts as they relate to improving solid waste management in First Nation communities.

### SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability means managing the garbage that we generate today to ensure that future generations will live in a healthy environment with sufficient resources to meet their needs and those

of future generations. We do not want our grandchildren to grow up in communities surrounded by toxic garbage dumps that have contaminated the air, land and water that sustain all life.

### TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Our cultures and languages hold an unparalleled knowledge of the land. We know that the health of the land is vital to the health of our people now and for generations to come. We must ensure that they can live life as the Creator intended, with clean air, water and land. Elders are part of every Earth Keepers session, and they remind us that traditionally there was no garbage, as everything was used and reused.

### COMMUNITY-BASED PLANNING

Participants meet at training sessions where information and methods for implementing community activities are shared. They complete four units in the Earth Keepers Program, with

To date, sixty-three First Nations across Ontario and representatives from seven Tribal Councils have participated in the Earth Keepers program. Generally, two sessions have been held each year, one for the northern communities, and the second session for southern communities.

specific exercises and community actions to be completed between training sessions.

#### TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

Developing a sound waste management plan for your community's garbage is not a terribly complicated process, but there is more to it than simply throwing waste in a hole in the ground. The program includes waste reduction strategies, designing waste management sites to minimize environmental impacts, opening, closing and operating waste management sites, alternatives to waste disposal, handling special wastes, recycling opportunities and composting.

#### ■ THE EARTH KEEPERS PROGRAM

Earth Keepers consists of four week-long units delivered over a four to five month period. Each unit guides the participants through the phases of preparing a Solid Waste Management Plan while incorporating First Nation cultural values into the process. The program is funded by INAC.

This program has been well received since its inception in February 2002. To date, sixty-three First Nations across Ontario and representatives from seven Tribal Councils have participated in the Earth Keepers program. Generally, two sessions have been held each year, one for the northern communities, and the second session for southern communities.

#### ■ PARTICIPATING FIRST NATIONS

##### SESSION 1 SOUTH

Wahta Mohawks, Shawanaga, Curve Lake, Sheshegwaning, Chippewas of Nawash, Whitefish River, Wasauksing, Moose Deer Point, Garden River, Mississaugas of New Credit, Mattagami, Michipicoten, Ojibways of Pic River, Constance Lake.

##### SESSION 1 NORTH

Sachigo Lake, Muskrat Dam, Ochiichagwe' Babigo'ining Ojibway, Deer Lake, Pikangikum, Kingfisher Lake, Sheguiandah, Poplar Hill, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan, Fort Severn, North Spirit Lake, Eabametoong.

##### SESSION 2 SOUTH

Serpent River, Wahgoshig, Batchewana, Magnetawan, Rainy River, Mohawks of Akwesasane, Beausoleil, Fort William, Dokis, Georgina Island.

##### SESSION 2 NORTH

Wawakapewin, Slate Falls, Kitchenumaykoosib Inninuwig, Wunnumin Lake, Sandy Lake, Mishkeegogamang.

##### SESSION 3 WEST

Couchiching, Northwest Angle 33, Lac Seul, Shoal Lake 39, Seine River, Big Grassy Narrows, Lac de Mille Lac, Washagamis Bay, Northwest Angle 37, Onigaming, Stanjikoming, Wauzhushk Onigum.

##### SESSION 3 NORTH SHORE/MANITOULIN

Whitefish Lake, Thessalon, M'Chigeeng, Sheguiandah, Mississauga, Aundeck-Omnikaning, Sagamok, Wahnapiatae.

#### ■ MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

##### Earth Keepers Solid Waste Management Planning

With funding from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), OFNTSC offered a ten day training program, over four months, to individuals from First Nations and Tribal Councils. The sessions were designed to produce a community supported waste management plan that is both long term and sustainable.

##### Earth Keepers Fuel Systems Management Training

Individuals from First Nations and Tribal councils attended a ten day training program delivered over four months to produce a community emergency response plan for fuel spills. Individuals were trained in spill response and tank inventory.

Participants arrived from Kasabonika, Fort Severn, Pikangikum, and Bearskin In addition, Windigo Tribal Council sent one delegate.

Funding was provided by INAC and Environment Canada

##### Aboriginal Environmental Network

OFNTSC Executive Director, Michael Nepanik and Wendy Mortimer attended a meeting in Kamloops in March 2003 with representatives from aboriginal organizations from across Canada. Delegates were invited to produce a work plan along with corporate and funding structures for the launching of an Aboriginal environment Network by 2004-2005.

The program, launched with funding from INAC, was undertaken in response to needs identified by clients for reliable information and a way to connect with other First Nations, Inuit and Metis organizations. INAC wished to develop a suitable mechanism for disseminating information and environment issues and solutions.

The environmental program, and especially Earth Keepers, has been extremely well received since its inception three years ago. It will continue to explore new approaches and new programs to ensure we pass on a clean and sustainable environment to our children. ■

# INSPECTION TRAINING



## ■ BURN-IT-SMART (BIS)

Free residential wood burning workshops were delivered to OFNTSC First Nation clients in northern and southern Ontario during February and March 2004.

Environment Canada provided \$20,000.00 in funding to deliver a series of Burn-it-Smart workshops for First Nations in Ontario. It was offered as part of a national campaign led by NRCAN to promote safer, cleaner and more efficient wood burning practices for those who heat their homes with wood.

The workshops had three main themes related to wood heating - safety, efficiency and wood-smoke pollution while economizing on costs.

Instructors from OFNTSC, the North Shore Tribal Council, Wikwemikong, Windigo and Matawa Tribal Councils offered training at the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte (Tyendinega), Mississauga First Nation, Batchewana, Round Lake, Washagamis Bay, Hornepayne and Fort Hope.

## ■ WOOD ENERGY TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER (WETT) TRAINING

Funding was provided from Environment Canada and CMHC to sponsor WETT course fees for sixteen participants from First Nations across Ontario.

OFNTSC coordinated the WETT Code Compliance and Basic Inspection courses which took place in Sault Ste. Marie October 27- 31, 2003.

## ■ HOUSING MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS

OFNTSC coordinated a two-day Arrears Management Workshop in November in Thunder Bay, and a Housing policy workshop in December in Sioux Lookout.

Sponsored by CMHC and OFNTSC, and facilitated by Turtle Island Associates, the workshop focussed on a number of issues of concern to First Nation clients.

The Arrears Management workshop was designed to assist communities in implementing payment policies and following arrears management practices. Participants reviewed innovative techniques that could be used to encourage clients to follow payment policies.

A Housing Policy workshop focused on the benefits of a community housing policy and the importance of involving the community in the development process, including a review of the development and enforcement of a housing policy and communication plan.

It was designed also to assist individuals responsible for ensuring that housing policies are in place to govern the delivery and administration of housing programs and services.

## ■ 2ND ANNUAL NORTHERN HOUSING CONFERENCE

A three-day Northern Housing Conference in March was coordinated by a committee formed by the Northern Tribal Councils.

The conference was directed at Northern First Nation community members to provide them with information on a range of housing issues useful in community development, housing construction, housing management, home maintenance and others.

Information was presented through a series of facilitated workshops and presentations with a northern focus. In addition, a trade show hosted a variety of products or services available in the field of housing.

The well attended and very successful conference was sponsored by CMHC, NRCAN/R2000, INAC, Health Canada, and Lumber One Building Supplies.

## ■ ANNUAL NATIVE INSPECTORS SERVICES INITIATIVES CONFERENCE (NISI)

OFNTSC mounted this year's conference February 2-5, 2004 at the Sheraton Hotel in Hamilton to support the development of Native Inspectors and a First Nations Inspection Industry.

Tex Mcleod was contracted to offer a pre-conference workshop on Air/vapour Barriers and Crawlspace Foundations.

The conference covered topics on Objective-Based codes (John Haysom, NRC), Ontario Building Code (Ari Arlani, MMAH), CMHC Automated Work Description System (Tarina Anthony, CMHC), Insulated Concrete Forms (Paul Rawlings, Rawlings Homes), CMHC Programs On Reserve (Robert Restoule, CMHC), First Nation Building Officers Association (FNBOA) (Keith Maracle), Apprenticeships (Will Brouwer, OFNTSC) and OFNTSC Housing Program update (Grace Martineau, OFNTSC).

# CAMS2000

## Supporting First Nations with Asset Management



the toolbar functionality. The sessions also explained how the software could be used as both a First Nation community asset management tool and an application for completing the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) annual request for O&M data.

With INAC's newly introduced Long-Term Capital Plan, CAMS2000 will be useful in assisting First Nations and INAC in maintenance management, tracking quantity, replacement value and current conditions of all on-reserve community capital assets.

With our latest edition of the Conditional Assessment & Housing Database (CAHD) First Nations can further identify detailed information such as site related maintenance and cost, inspections, mold and indoor air quality and over-crowding issues on all First Nations housing stock.

Looking to the future, OFNTSC will continue with its modernization of the CAMS2000 software. We are contemplating a project to provide clients with a desperately needed Community Maintenance System (CMS).

This would provide First Nations with a comprehensive maintenance management solution including maintenance strategies, equipment inventory, training requirements, audit records, departmental assessment, and a tool to manage and maintain all community capital assets, effectively and efficiently.

OFNTSC will continue to offer software support and troubleshooting for its CAMS2000 software to all First Nations and Tribal Councils in Ontario. We also look forward to offering our clients with future developments to the CAMS2000 software.

OFNTSC will also be able to offer technical and software support for its CAMS2000 software with its dynamic team of April Wemigwans from the Toronto office and Angela Crozier from the Thunder Bay service centre. Both have worked hard to familiarize themselves on the intricacies of the application and both are now in a position to provide the help desk support to our clients. ■

Following the official 2002 release of CAMS2000 to First Nations and Tribal Councils at our 7th Annual Technical Conference & Tradeshow in Niagara Falls, OFNTSC embarked upon an intensive in-depth training program for all users of the CAMS2000 software.

The CAMS2000 software is a computerized asset management system allowing First Nations to catalogue and maintain detailed information on inventory, conditions, costs and the daily operation and maintenance of all community capital assets, including existing and newly constructed housing.

The CAMS2000 software comes packaged with a complete suite of tools to track and manage the Capital Asset Inventory System (CAIS), the Asset Condition Reporting System (ACRS) and the Capital Management Database (CMDB).

Throughout the summer and fall of 2003 we offered training sessions to all Large First Nations, eleven Tribal Councils and all Unaffiliated First Nations in Ontario. The training provided each CAMS2000 user with hands-on training on the system interface and

### PARTICIPANT COMMENTS:

"CAMS2000 is a very user friendly way to record, report and inspect all our assets, great system!"

"This program will centralize our O&M program and will make reporting to INAC easier."

"The CAMS2000 program will help our department stay ahead of the depreciation of all our facilities."

# R-2000/EnerGuide for Houses Initiative

**O**FNTSC continues to operate within the guidelines of a Contribution Agreement with Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) to inform Ontario First Nations about the benefits accruing from upgrading the efficiency of new homes in accordance with R-2000 Standards and EnerGuide for New Houses.

The R-2000/EnerGuide initiative has been developed and administered by Natural Resource Canada (NRCAN) and is designed to improve the efficiency of new homes by evaluating energy consumption and providing advice on energy-efficient improvements at the building stage. In addition, through the implementation of R-2000 Standards and EnerGuide for New Houses, the reduction in the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced will have a beneficial impact on the environment and the personal health of home owners and residents.

OFNTSC offers training programs for its technical staff as well as First Nation councils and Large First Nations. In addition, OFNTSC acts as the primary liaison between NRCAN, First Nation communities and Tribal Councils. As File Manager, it also offers clients technical support. Infrastructure specialists, stationed in the Thunder Bay Service Centre and in the Toronto office, have been assigned to visit First Nation communities throughout the province.

OFNTSC offered eight Builder's Workshops, to 160 participants, during the 2003-2004 fiscal year. Approximately two thirds (60%) of the participants are eligible to become R-2000 Licensed Builders or Professionals. Workshops were offered at:

- Tyendinega
- Wikwemikong
- Walpole Island
- Blind River
- Thunder Bay
- Akwesasne
- Sioux Lookout
- Fort Frances.



Also, during the past year, OFNTSC operated two R-2000 Design Evaluation Courses and two EnerGuide for Houses (EGH) Energy Evaluator Courses.

This year saw a number of communities begin construction on new homes in accordance with R-2000 standards - some of them for the first time. Akwesasne, Lac La Croix, Wiwemikong and the Mohwaks of the Bay of Quinte all had R-2000 home start-ups.

Another busy year is planned for 2004-2005 with R-2000 Builders Workshops, R-2000 Design Evaluation Training, R-2000 Inspection and Airtight Testing and Energy Evaluator's Training (EGH) already scheduled.

The R-2000 Standards/EnerGuide for New Houses Initiative has been popular among First Nation communities in Ontario since its inception over one year ago. The positive response has been encouraging and OFNTSC looks forward to offering further services next year.

OFNTSC is very happy with the results thus far and is looking forward to the upcoming year. "The program has been well-received throughout Ontario as First Nations take the initiative to reduce energy costs by building the best homes they can," says Lori Rice, OFNTSC R-2000/EnerGuide Administrator. ■



\*EnerGuide and EnerGuide for Houses are official trademarks of Natural Resources Canada and used with permission.

# FIRE SAFETY AND PROTECTION



OFNTSC continues to provide technical advisory services on fire safety and protection to its clients.

It has facilitated training and fire protection initiatives; developed and maintained a First Nations fire protection inventory, including needs analysis as required; maintained province-wide statistics and an up-to-date system of reporting.

Throughout, it has endeavoured to improve and enhance community awareness programs and communications.

### ■ FIRE FIGHTER TRAINING

During the past year the Ontario Native Fire Fighters Society (ONFFS) was contracted by OFNTSC to provide training to seventeen Ontario First Nations. Since not all volunteer fire departments are at the same level of experience and expertise, the instruction covered a variety of levels training. OFNTSC has striven to ensure that all fire departments are provided with elementary training in basic fire fighting techniques.

### ■ FIRE PREVENTION PROTECTION POSTER COMPETITION

Primarily used as an education tool by OFNTSC, the competition is eagerly anticipated by many First Nations elementary school students across the province. This year marked the 12th time the annual event has occurred and OFNTSC was inundated by a flood of over 300 posters. This speaks well for both its communications program and the participation of regional First Nation teachers and principals. Without this participation at the grass roots, the contest could not take place.

Six Nations of the Grand River, the largest First Nation community in Canada, figured significantly in this year's contest as the three winning posters for Ontario came from that community. The winners were:

**CATEGORY ONE** - Kindergarten to Grade Two - Bernadette Dow from Oliver M. Smith Elementary School.

**CATEGORY TWO** - Grade Three to Grade Five - Dylan Wes Green - Oliver M. Smith

Elementary School.

**CATEGORY THREE** - Grade Six and up - James Anderson (Grade eight) - J.C. Hill School.

Congratulations to all the winners who received \$300.00 each for their artistic creations. The three winning posters were also entered into a national competition. The next entry deadline will be September 2004

### ■ ONTARIO FIRST NATION FIRE PREVENTION OFFICERS

OFNTSC continues to provide advisory technical services to First Nation Fire Prevention Officers across Ontario. Services provided include fire prevention, code interpretation, acquisition of emergency service vehicles, community fire prevention issues, fire department administration, fire equipment purchase and distribution and, fire inspection services.

Fire Prevention officers are generally limited to providing services to community buildings such as Band Administration offices, schools, day care centres and elders' facilities. Since the Labour Program within HRSD is not mandated to provide fire inspection services to non-public buildings, the OFNTSC has assisted its clients in providing this service to those buildings not covered by HRSD.

Over the years, OFNTSC has provided continuous advice and guidance, including fire prevention information to Tribal Councils, Large First Nations and Unaffiliated First Nations. It is proud of its record on community interaction with local fire departments.

### PLAN AND SPECIFICATION REVIEW

OFNTSC works with its clients and HRSD to facilitate plan and specification reviews by HRSD Fire Protection Engineers at the community level. In previous years OFNTSC was successful in seconding a Fire Engineer position from the HRSD (formerly HRDC) Labour Program. Unfortunately this valuable service is no longer available for our clients. This posi-

tion enabled OFNTSC to provide timely and efficient services and advice to its clients.

### ■ NATIONAL BUILDING CODE: PART 3 TRAINING (HRSD)

Successful negotiations with INAC and the former HRDC produced a budget to administer three National building Code Part 3, Fire Protection Training sessions.

The HRSD, Labour Program Fire Protection Engineers delivered the training sessions in Thunder Bay and the Southern/Sudbury areas. The training sessions were divided into classroom and practical hands-on instruction for fire inspections. Thirteen participants, including OFNTSC staff, successfully completed the program.

OFNTSC intends to continue to offer

programs to familiarize its membership with the National Building Code Part 3 and will undertake further discussions with HRSD to obtain the necessary financial assistance for the program.

### ■ FIRE PROTECTION EQUIPMENT: BULK PURCHASE

Through a partnership with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, OFNTSC secured funding to facilitate a bulk purchase of fire protection equipment to be distributed to First Nation fire departments and emergency service personnel. This purchase helped to outfit volunteer fire departments and complete the inventory of some First Nation Emergency Services.

#### FIRE FIGHTERS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The two-day conference at Oneida First Nation,

June 6-7, 2003, included workshops, a fire fighters competition and an inspirational guest speaker - Rick Saracelli, a New York City firefighter involved in the World Trade Centre emergency and clean-up.

The recently retired Saracelli, who worked in Harlem and the Bronx fire departments in the "Big Apple" for over thirty years, spoke freely to the assembled audience and was lavish in his praise of the dedication and talent of the First Nation Fire Fighters. He compared their dedication and intensity to his esteemed colleagues in New York.

The annual Fire Department competition which stresses speed, efficiency and finesse, was taken by M'Chigeeng First Nation. They represented Ontario in a national competition in Kelowna British Columbia. ■

## CONSTRUCTION AND CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

**O**FNTSC offered five training sessions in Construction Contract Management and Administration in 2002-2003. The course was designed to assist First Nation communities and organizations in understanding contracting processes and establishing sound contract management regimes. Individuals with responsibilities associated with construction contract administration and management with First Nation communities attended the training sessions.

Course participants learned to identify and apply basic principles of sound contract administration and management and how to plan for, and contract, construction projects. In addition professional, and other, services needed to complete those projects were reviewed.

OFNTSC instructors also taught basic strategies for maximizing social-economic benefits for First Nation communities, such as community planning, involvement of First Nation owned companies, use of local labour and materials, and training.

Sessions were held in Orillia at the Highwayman Inn (November 2002), London at the Sheraton Four Points (May 2003), Sudbury at the Holiday

Inn (July 2003), Timmins at the Days Inn (November 2003) and again, in Sudbury, at the Quality Inn (April 2004).

Twenty participants attended the Orillia session from southern and Sudbury Unaffiliated First Nations.

Invitations for the second session in London were sent to Southern First Nations Secretariat (SFNS), Ogemawahj Tribal Council, Mississaugas of New Credit, Six Nations, Bkwejwanong Territory, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. Sixteen delegates attended.

The North Shore Tribal Council, the United Chiefs and Councils: Manitoulin Tribal Council and Waabnoong Bemjiwang sent 31 delegates to attend session three in Sudbury

Eighteen delegates from the Mushkegowuk and Wabun Tribal Councils, as well as participants from the North Shore Tribal Council and the United Chiefs and Councils: Manitoulin Tribal Council, who could not attend the session in Sudbury, participated in the Timmins training sessions.

Finally, 17 respondents from all Southern Tribal Councils, Large First Nations, and Sudbury

and Southern Unaffiliated First Nations attended session five in Sudbury.

Feedback from participants was positive and they have suggested that a course in Project Management would be helpful as an enhancement to their training. OFNTSC is currently exploring this possibility.

### ■ OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The 2001-2002 Deputy Minister's Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to the OFNTSC team that developed the "Training on Contract Management and Administration for First Nations."

Members of the team included: Ian Corbin INAC (HQ); Chantal Guimond INAC (HQ); Alan Turner INAC RPS (HQ); Mike White Veterans Affairs, Canada; Gabriel Moses RPS, INAC (Manitoba Region); Serge Langlois INAC (HQ); Pierre LaMontaigne RPS, INAC (Quebec Region); Sidney Lam RPS, INAC (Alberta Region); Irving "Bing" Leblanc OFNTSC.

Irving "Bing" Leblanc was assigned to the project by OFNTSC to ensure First Nation interests were considered in course development. ■

# Annual OFNTSC Conference & Trade Show



**O**FNSTC, in conjunction with the Aboriginal Water & Wastewater Association of Ontario, hosted the 8th Annual First Nations Technical Conference at the Waterfront Holiday Inn in Sault Ste. Marie, August 19-21, 2003. The

conference theme of *Building, Sharing and Learning* underscored the importance placed on these traditional values in building technical self-reliance, new partnerships and healthy communities for First Nations.

Over 300 technical service people from every

Ontario First Nation, Tribal Councils, out-of-province visitors, clients and customers joined with representatives, from industry, the private sector and government in one of the most successful events yet.

More than 40 workshops, seminars and information sessions offered practical information on environmental issues, housing, water and wastewater management and a number of other technical service projects.

The Student Awards Banquet honoured two Ontario science and technology students: Clarence Meekis from Deer Lake First Nation and Sylvia Coleman from Scugog First Nation. During the banquet, former OFNTSC Executive Director Irvin George was “roasted” by colleagues and friends.

Chiefs of Ontario Regional Vice-Chief, Charles Fox, announced the renaming of the student awards to the Daryl Fox Memorial Student Award, in memory of his son Daryl. ■



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**T**he Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation is the founding organization in Canada whose purpose is to provide professional technical advisory services to all First Nations in Ontario and to foster technical self-reliance of our people.

**We will strive to achieve our mission through:**

**Dedication** to our roles and responsibilities as Board Members and Staff;

**Professional** integrity;

**Honest and fair** advice in our relationships with each other and First Nations; and

**Respecting** all forms of life, the water, the air and Mother Earth.