



**Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation**  
**2007-2008 Annual Report**

# Mission Statement

The Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation is the founding organization in Canada whose purpose is to provide technical and advisory services to all First Nations in Ontario and to foster self-reliance for 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 our First Nations, and
- Respect for all forms of life, the water and Mother Earth.

# Corporate Profile

Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC) began operations in 1995, under a mandate from Ontario First Nations' Chiefs in Assembly, to provide advisory and technical support services to all 134 First Nations in Ontario. OFNTSC also services 15 Tribal Councils, 6 Large First Nations, 11 Southern Unaffiliated First Nations and 12 Unaffiliated First Nations in the Ontario north.

OFNTSC continues to foster knowledge based self-reliance for all First Nations people through hands on training and advice as requested while encouraging youth to pursue higher education in technology and engineering.

OFNTSC pursues its efforts in capacity building and technology transfer through renewed funding agreements with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. It also consults regularly with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Health Canada, Environment Canada and the Ministry of the Environment (Ontario), Public Works and Government Services Canada as well as Human Resources and Social Development Canada.

The corporation maintains strategic alliances with other Aboriginal groups, including the Assembly of First Nations and the Chiefs of Ontario, provincial and municipal governments and professional associations as necessary.

OFNTSC provides services through a full complement of engineering and technical staff, as well as administrative, managerial and communications personnel, from two service centres in Thunder Bay and Toronto.

It provides technical and advisory support services for architecture, capital project planning and development, bulk fuel training, operations and maintenance, fire safety, environmental engineering, water and wastewater quality and housing. It also oversees training and certification processes, housing code compliance inspection and quality assurance initiatives.



# Contents

1	Mission Statement
1	Corporate Profile
3	Our Communities
4	Board of Directors
5	President's Message
6	Executive Director's Message
7	Technical Manager's Report
8	Operations Manager's Report
9	Student Awards / Golf Tournament
10	Water and Wastewater Management
11	Circuit Rider Training Program: Water
12	Circuit Rider Training Program: Fuel Systems Management
13	Environmental and Natural Resources
14	Fire Safety Program
15	Housing
16	Infrastructure Program
17	Operations and Maintenance
18	Communications
19	Water Symposium
21	Staff Directory
22	13th Annual OFNTSC Technical Conference and Trade Show



# Our Communities

- Anishinaabeg of Kabapikotawangag Resources
- Anishinaabe of Naongashing (Big Island)
  - Anishinaabe of Wauzhushk Onigum (Rat Portage)
  - Big Grassy River
  - North West Angle #33
  - North West Angle #37
  - Ojibways of Onegaming

- Bimose Tribal Council
- Eagle Lake
  - Grassy Narrows
  - Iskatewizaagegan (Shoal Lake # 39)
  - Lac Des Mille Lacs
  - Naotkamegwanning (Whitefish Bay)
  - Shoal Lake # 40
  - Wabaseemoong
  - Wabauskang
  - Wabigoon Lake Ojibway
  - Obashkanndagaang
  - Ochiichagwe' Babigo' Ining

- Matawa First Nations Management Inc.
- Aroland
  - Constance Lake
  - Eabametoong (Fort Hope)
  - Ginoogaming (Long Lac#77)
  - Horne Payne
  - Long Lake#58
  - Marten Falls
  - Neskantaga (Lansdowne House)
  - Nibinamik (Summer Beaver)
  - Webequie

- Pwi-Di-Goo-Zing Ne Yaa-Zhing Tribal Council
- Couchiching
  - Lac La Croix
  - Naicatchewenin
  - Nickikousemenecaning (Red Dog)
  - Rainy River
  - Seine River
  - Stanjikoming

- Unaffiliated Western First Nations
- Biinjitiwabik Zaaging Anishinabek (Rocky Bay)
  - Flying Post
  - Fort William
  - Kaishke Zaaging Anishinaabek
  - Lake Nipigon
  - Michipocoten
  - Mishkeegogamang (New Osnaburgh)
  - Namaygoosisagagum
  - Ojibways of Pic River
  - Pays Plat
  - Pic Mobert
  - Popular Point
  - Red Rock (Lake Helen)
  - Saugeen Nation
  - Lac Seul

- Keewaytinook Okimakanak Tribal Council
- Deer Lake
  - Fort Severn
  - Keewaywin
  - McDowell Lake
  - North Spirit Lake
  - Poplar Hill

- Shibogama First Nations Council
- Kasabonika Lake
  - Wapekeka
  - Wawakapewin
  - Wunnumin Lake
  - Sand Point
  - Kingfisher Lake

- Windigo First Nations Council
- Bearskin Lake
  - Cat Lake
  - Koocheching
  - North Caribou Lake (Round Lake)
  - Sachigo Lake
  - Slate Falls
  - Whitewater Lake

- Independent First Nations Alliance
- Kitchenumaykoosib Inninuwig (Big Trout Lake)
  - Muskrat Dam
  - Pikangikum
  - Whitesand

- Mushkegowuk Tribal Council
- Attawapiskat
  - Chapleau Cree
  - Fort Albany
  - Kashechewan
  - Missanabie Cree
  - Moose Cree
  - Taykwa Tagamou Nation (New Post)

- Wabun Tribal Council
- Beaverhouse
  - Brunswick House
  - Chapleau Ojibway
  - Matachewan
  - Mattagami
  - Wahgoshig (Abitibi #70)

- North Shore Tribal Council
- Garden River
  - Mississauga
  - Ojibways of Batchewana (Rankin)
  - Sagamok Anishnawbek
  - Serpent River
  - Thessalon
  - Whitefish Lake

- United Chiefs and Councils of Manitoulin
- M'Chigeeng (West Bay)
  - Aundeck Omni Kaning - Ojibways of Sucker Creek
  - Sheguiandah
  - Shesshegwaning
  - Whitefish River
  - Zhiibaahaasing (Cockburn)

- Waabnoong Bemjiwang Association of First Nations
- Dokis
  - Henvey Inlet
  - Magnetawan
  - Whnapiatae
  - Wasauksing (Parry Island)

- Unaffiliated Sudbury First Nations
- Shawanaga
  - Temagami (Bear Island)
  - Weenusk

- Southern First Nations Secretariat
- Caldwell
  - Chippewas of Aamjiwnaang (Sarnia)
  - Chippewas of Kettle and Stoney Point
  - Chippewas of the Thames
  - Delaware Nation (Moravian)
  - Munsee-Delaware Nation
  - Onieda Nation of the Thames

- Ogemawahj Tribal Council
- Chippewas of Beausoleil (Christian Island)
  - Chippewas of Georgina Island
  - Chippewas of Mnjikaning (Rama)
  - Mississaugas of Alderville
  - Mississaugas of Scugog Island
  - Moose Deer Point

- Southern Unaffiliated First Nations
- Algonquins of Pikwakanagan (Golden Lake)
  - Chippewas of Nawash (Cape Croker)
  - Chippewas of Saugeen
  - Nipissing
  - Curve Lake
  - Hiawatha
  - Mississaugas of New Credit
  - Wahta Mohawks (Gibson)

- Large First Nations
- Mohawk Council of Akwesasne
  - Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte (Tyendinaga)
  - Sandy Lake
  - Six Nations of the Grand River Territory
  - Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve
  - Bkwejwanong Territory (Walpole Island)

# Board of Directors



Front Row: Garland Moses, Matthew Hoppe, James Owl, Eugene Mcpherson, Kevin Debassige, David Gordon. Middle Row: Jay Benedict, Randy Roy, Larry Karim, Jason Batise, Mark French, Joe Meekis, Wes Bova. Back Row: Dennis Cormack, David Hill, Scott Maracle, Keith J. Maracle, Richard Habinski.

**James Owl, President**  
North Shore Tribal Council

**Mathew Hoppe, Vice President**  
Shibogama First Nations Council

**Wesley Bova, Treasurer**  
Matawa First Nations Management

**Scott Maracle, Secretary**  
Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte

**Keith J. Maracle, Executive Committee Member**  
Ogemawahj Tribal Council

**Jay Benedict, Executive Committee Member**  
Mohawk Council of Akwesasne

**Doug McKenzie, Executive Committee Member**  
Temagami First Nation

**Garland Moses, Executive Committee Member**  
Ojibways of Pic River First Nation

**Larry Karaim**  
Bimose Tribal Council

**Mark French**  
Southern First Nations Secretariat

**Jason Batise**  
Wabun Tribal Council

**Adam Sault**  
Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation

**Peter Campbell**  
Keewaytinook Okimakanak Tribal Council

**Richard Habinski**  
Windigo First Nations Council

**David Hill**  
Six Nations of the Grand River Territory

**VACANT**  
Wikwemikong Unceded First Nation

**Joe C. Meekis**  
Sandy Lake First Nation

**Dean Bethune**  
Pwi-Di-Goo-Zing Ne-Yaa-Zhing

**Terry Metatawabin**  
Mushkegowuk Tribal Council

**Kevin Debassige**  
United Chiefs & Councils of Manitoulin

**Randy Roy**  
Waabnoong Bemjiwang Association of First Nations

**John Fiddler**  
Independent First Nations Alliance

**Eugene McPherson**  
Anishinabek of Kabaspikotawangag Resource Council

**Patrick Isaac**  
Bkwejwang Territory

**Christopher Angecone**  
Lac Seul First Nation

# President's Message



Ahniin, it's been a year of change for me and Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC). I am proud to present you with our 13th Annual Report. I would like to take this time to acknowledge the Chiefs of Ontario, clients, stakeholders, Tribal Councils, Government and private sector partners as integral parts of OFNTSC.

The past year has been one of change and new direction for OFNTSC. Myself as President took on a dual role this past year as acting Executive Director while maintaining the Presidency of OFNTSC. After a thorough search we hired one of the best in the business to fill the role of Executive Director, Bob Howsam. Bob has many years experience in government organizations across Canada and we believe he is a piece of the puzzle to help OFNTSC transition to become the world class organization that we all know OFNTSC is.

Change is a force that requires OFNTSC to constantly adapt to the changing political landscape of the nation. Through this process OFNTSC identified key areas that required more knowledge on behalf of the corporation to successfully navigate the changing landscapes. I am proud to say we have adapted to meet the new challenges faced by OFNTSC and I am confident that OFNTSC has the direction to be a leader provincially, nationally and globally.

With operational organization, change requires new ideas and vision. This also means new people. I would like to say to those who have left OFNTSC that we could not have done it without you. You were the face, everyday for OFNTSC. The lives that you have improved, and the community's futures that you have brightened, we are indebted to you. To those who are still with us and those who will be joining us in moving forward to new horizons, we are delivering a service of utmost importance to our Indigenous people. Through your vigilance and passion we shall close the gap in the standard of living for Indigenous people in Ontario. We are a model of integration and co-operation for all to see. Let's continue to be leaders.

In the interest of moving forward, it has been one of my main goals to secure a multi-year funding agreement for OFNTSC. It is my pleasure to announce to you that OFNTSC has succeeded in that goal. This new agreement will allow OFNTSC to grow, adapt and be the best service provider it can be. A fundamental part of this funding is to foster new relationships with our clients, stakeholders and partners. As well as strengthening the ties that we already share. The strength of these relationships will be integral to the success of OFNTSC. I know that all involved with OFNTSC are passionate about improving the standard of living for Indigenous people.

In closing I would like to say the past year for me has been about rebuilding the foundation that OFNTSC sits on. Through out this process we have never lost site of our goals and values. I would like to extend my thanks to the board members who have tirelessly worked this past year to improve the corporation's goals, initiatives and structure. I am proud to say we are even a stronger, more vibrant Corporation than we were last year. And I know that the future for OFNTSC looks brighter than it ever has before. Thank you.

**James Owl**, President

# Executive Director's Message

It has been my honour to be the executive director of OFNTSC for the last seven months of the year 2007-2008. I look forward to many years in this position.

The last year has not been without its challenges. We have however, had a successful year providing much needed services to First Nations communities in Ontario.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors, in particular the Executive Committee for the tremendous support and leadership they have provided to the Corporation and me personally throughout the last year. Without that support my "learning curve" would have been even steeper than it was.

The staff of OFNTSC deserves much credit for the diligence and excellence they exercise in delivery of services to First Nations. The important areas we support First Nations in, impact on First Nations peoples lives everyday. Clean water, effective waste water treatment, quality housing, fuel handling, infrastructure and environmental issues are only a sampling of areas where our staff supports communities.

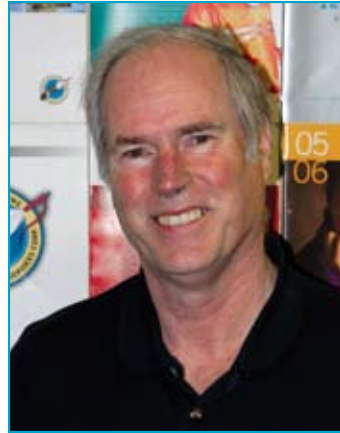
A major undertaking for the Corporation this year was the Water Symposium we organized in Niagara Falls in conjunction with AWWAO and with support from the Government of Canada. The symposium sought to bring leadership from communities and the water operation staff's together so that everyone got the same message on the importance of water issues.

Thanks to the work of the staff and the support of the board we have an approved budget and work plan going into 2008-2009. We will endeavor to work effectively with our partners; Tribal Councils, Large First Nations and unaffiliated First Nations to improve the lives of First Nations people in communities across Ontario.

**Bob Howsam**, Executive Director



# Technical Manager's Report



Boozhoo, OFNTSC has now been providing valuable advisory services to First Nations across Ontario for thirteen full years. The staff of the Thunder Bay Service center is proud to have been an integral part of this service delivery.

With a new Executive Director in Bob Howsam, who has many years experience working with First Nations, I believe the future looks very encouraging for OFNTSC. It is our belief that much has been done to give the corporation solid direction with regard to the delivery of technical programs across the province. We have received direction through the Clients Needs Report. Our office has reviewed these needs and, in cooperation with our Toronto colleagues, developed a plan of activities for each program area.

During the year we were fortunate to be able to hire Michelle Glena on a fulltime basis in the position of Environment and Natural Resource Technologist. Michelle has been very active in programs dealing with energy conservation and fuel. On the energy file, she has continued work that was commenced under the now defunct Pathfinders Program. Michelle works with Hydro One programs to reduce energy consumption in homes and businesses.

Fuel handling and storage are areas of concern in many First Nations. Michelle works along with Doug Stuart to provide Fuel Circuit Rider Training in most of the remote First Nations of Ontario. This winter they have begun the development of training materials to assist homeowners with their home fuel storage tanks.

In Thunder Bay we lost a valuable employee with Cliff Carriere's resignation. We wish Cliff all the best in his new employment. However, we were fortunate to employ Meiru Zheng, M. Sc. in this water and wastewater engineering position. Meiru will work closely with our other OFNTSC engineers to provide advisory services in the water and wastewater areas.

With staff changes in Toronto, Grace Martineau took on the expanded mandate to provide advisory services across the province. She is a great resource to First Nations needing advice related to housing policy and training. Grace is an important part of the team that recently planned the 6th Annual Northern Housing Conference. This planning is done in full cooperation and support of the Tribal Councils. This year's conference had an attendance of about 174 people from the housing industry.

Our three infrastructure specialists, Richard, Clarence and Jonathan, are heavily involved in the construction of quality homes on the eleven Unaffiliated First Nations. Their work included inspections and reporting on approximately 150 new and existing homes needing renovations and upgrades. Their work begins with plan reviews and ends with final inspections, including the reporting, of the works. They are called upon by First Nations to provide advice on how to perform the construction work, train local trade's people, and provide recommendations on various aspects of the work. They deserve significant thanks for helping to improve the quality of housing on First Nations. The balance of their time is devoted to other First Nation needs in areas of minor and major capital projects. A significant effort involved the coordination of the Asset Condition Reporting System (ACRS) inspections in all eleven First Nations.

The engineers of the Thunder Bay Service Center are heavily involved in making safe water available to First Nations. Cliff and I have worked directly with four First Nations on two new water treatment plants and two studies. We have coordinated the OFNTSC efforts and proposal process to commence a third round of Engineering Assessments. However, due to an INAC headquarters program to assess water facilities across Canada, the proposal is on hold. In cooperation with our colleagues in Toronto, we have prepared a proposal to deliver CRTP water and wastewater training in sixty eight First Nations. This proposal has been accepted by INAC and efforts are underway to engage twelve trainers to deliver the program.

Our office coordinated four Northern Tribal Council meetings. These meetings are very effective at bringing together representatives from Tribal Councils, INAC and OFNTSC to discuss issues of common interest. This exchange enhances our ability to provide timely and effective services.

As noted earlier, OFNTSC has undergone significant changes during the past year. We believe this has been a valuable exercise that has required the staff in both offices to pull together in support of each other. We believe that this has made us more aware of our clients – their needs and their strengths. We have maintained good working relationships with our INAC, CMHC and Health Canada funders. We look forward to continuing to work with all these government groups on behalf of all the First Nations across Ontario.

Miigwetch

**Jim Taylor, P. Eng., Technical Manager**



# Operations Manager's Report



This past year has been one of change in the senior management of the OFNTSC. I was asked to take on the management position for the Toronto Service Centre in August and facilitate the incorporation of a new Executive Director that began in September, 2007.

Along with changes in OFNTSC's workload, OFNTSC continued to be dominated by water issues within First Nations. In March, 2008 the OFNTSC capped off the fiscal year with our federal partners a First Nation Water Symposium. The Symposium brought out not only senior federal stakeholders with "Water Files" but also Phil Fontaine, the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and Angus Toulouse, the Regional Chief of the Chiefs of Ontario. A special thanks goes out to Elmer Lickers and Cindy Owl for the hard work and dedication that brought about the 2008 First Nations Water Symposium.

The OFNTSC still remains committed to work with all stakeholders through our Water and Wastewater area, in the water field and provide the best technical advisory services in the regulatory framework and federal and provincial standards areas.

The Circuit Rider Training Program supported by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) has been given a large boost of confidence by signing an agreement, accepting the OFNTSC's proposal to expand the CRTP services to now include 68 First Nations in total. This meant a rigorous search for additional CRTP Trainers but the search was fruitful by the end of the fiscal year.

The housing aspects of OFNTSC have not shown any sign of slowing. Infrastructure Specialists, Training and Housing Advisory all continuing to be requested for service at an increasing growth rate.

The OFNTSC has been given approval by the Board of Directors to now move into cost recovery for services being provided to our clients and outside requests. The OFNTSC are still active members in the joint Steering Committee on Housing with Chiefs of Ontario and will continue to be a resource for all other housing areas.

Other related programs such as fire safety are experiencing growth as well. In the past year a Fire Survey conducted to gain a better understanding of all fire protection needs across Ontario has been undertaken by OFNTSC, INAC and the Ontario Native Fire Fighters Society. We are still waiting for the results at this time on the survey outcome. The National Fire poster contest produced over 300 entrants this year alone. The poster contest is entering its 15th year, and we are looking forward to all the bright ideas that will illustrate fire safety. While not only encouraging creativity from youth on fire safety, the contest also helps encourage awareness about fire safety and the dangers that fires can present. Congratulations to all the winners from this years contest. In addition to other fire safety initiatives fire prevention material has been acquired through funding from INAC. OFNTSC has taken these materials and shipped them out to First Nation Fire Prevention Officers across Ontario.

On another front Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC) continued its inspections in First Nation communities with the HRDSC completing over 150 building inspections this year.

The Operations and Maintenance (O&M) service has been quite busy. The Integrated Capital Management System (ICMS) has been re-organized to better suit the needs of our First Nations across Ontario. The staff will be distributing and training our First Nation clients in the next year on the newly updated ICMS program. O&M are currently waiting for INAC final approval of the latest version of the O&M Cost Model for Water and Wastewater. This new model would provide First Nations with enhanced O&M funding on the water collection and distribution, labor and energy costs. The challenges that have been faced over the past fiscal year have developed a sense of teamwork in both the Toronto and Thunder Bay Service Centres and with the new organizational chart being approved by the Board of Directors for the upcoming year the commitment for services to the clients will be the main drive, of the OFNTSC.

In closing, I would like to thank the Executive Committee for allowing me to participate as the Branch Manager, Toronto Service Centre. I would also like to recognize the Toronto staff for their support and continued dedication to their jobs during this time.

**Brian Staats, CRSP, A/Operations Manager**



# Student Awards Recipients

Youth are the future of Canada's First Nations people. With 48% of the First Nation population under the age of 25, OFNTSC continues to support First Nations Students who are pursuing careers in technical, environmental, architectural and engineering programs. As in the past, OFNTSC was joined by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to present the awards, with each organization sponsoring two students. The awards consist of a plaque, and an honorarium of \$1,000. OFNTSC is pleased to introduce the student award winners for the year of 2007:



**Matthew Douglas**

Matthew is a member of Mnjikaning (Rama) First Nation, located just outside of Orillia, Ontario. Douglas is a graduate of Carleton University in the civil engineering field. He was spurred on by mentor Kelvin Jamieson, a member of the Ogemawahj Tribal Council to pursue his dream of being an engineer.



**Clifford Wabasse**

Clifford is from Webequie First Nation, 540 km north of the city of Thunder Bay. Wabasse has studied electronics engineering – computer technician at Confederation College in Thunder Bay. His passion has come from working in Webequie at a community level and is dedicated to maintaining the technological equipment that his First Nation has. Wabasse's advice for youth pursuing their dreams is "Making small sacrifices can go a long way".



**James Roach**

James is a member of Batchewana First Nation located inside the City of Sault Ste. Marie. Roach is a graduate of Ryerson University in the field of Urban and Regional planning. In the future Roach wants to plan First Nations communities.



**Travis Duncan**

Travis comes from Muskrat Dam First Nation. Duncan has completed a diploma in Civil Engineering from Confederation College. Duncan is currently working with Independent First Nations Alliance (IFNA) and is looking forward to improving the lives of First Nations people.

## OFNTSC Golf Classic 2007

The OFNTSC Golf Classic has helped First Nations people live their dreams across the Province of Ontario for the past ten years. In 2007, OFNTSC partnered with the Community Economic Development Officer (CEDO) Conference and Tradeshow to help raise the funds required to support First Nations students. The conference and tradeshow took place in Kenora, Ontario. The golf classic took place at Falcon Lake Golf Course just inside the border of Manitoba. OFNTSC would like to thank all participants and sponsors, for their generous donations. Your support means the world to First Nation students pursuing their dreams.



# Water & Waste Water Management

Water and Wastewater have been contentious issues for all First Nations in the past year. With technical expertise and infrastructure building First Nations are beginning to close the gap on infrastructure needs.

OFNTSC in the past fiscal year has worked with the Assembly of First Nations Water Technicians Group to provide technical advisory services. The advisory service was in regards to Water and Wastewater issues. Accomplishments of the strategic partnership included the completion of an impact report on municipal wastewater effluent. The technicians are currently working on proposed Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) Water and Wastewater legislation. These partnerships are ones of utmost importance from a technical knowledge sharing perspective to OFNTSC and we will continue to strengthen our ties to these partners in the future.

After the Walkerton crisis in 2000, the Ministry of Environment (Ontario) setup the Advisory Council on Drinking Water Quality and Testing Standards. OFNTSC's very own Derrick Kamanga is a member of this council. Kamanga participates in this committee as a representative of OFNTSC. The Council has proposed stringent standards for drinking water that the council would like to see implemented across Ontario. Those standards include Trihalomethanes (THMs), Haloacetic acid (HAA5) chlorates, Tritium, and other disinfectant-by-products.

Some discussion has taken place on non-municipal small water treatment systems which will be administered and managed by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. Blake Cassels Graydon LLP has been retained to provide a report on the impact of provincial legislation on First Nations water and wastewater systems. This report is a work in progress as it will be taking into account the proposed legislation framework from INAC on water and wastewater.

Moving forward into the new fiscal year the Water and Wastewater program will continue to provide technical support on project implementation for engineering assessment reports-projects. Such as projects in Curve Lake First Nation, Attawapiskat, Shawanaga, Mattagami, Chapleau Ojibway, Kashechewan, Weenusk and Taykwa-Tagamou. In addition to these projects the Water and Wastewater program will continue to provide technical advisory services to Hiawatha First Nation; Algonquins of Pikwakanagan, Wasauksing, Mohawks of Akwesasne, Attawapiskat and Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte.

The Water and Wastewater program also assisted in the preparation of the list of First Nations communities designated for conducting an Engineering Assessment Phase three. A final proposal update has been submitted to INAC for funding. In relation to these assignments, Kamanga participates in a Health Canada working group to resolve the issue of boil water advisories. The protocol will also be up for implementation soon.

The OFNTSC's Water and Wastewater program was selected to provide technical advice to the Walkerton Clean Water Centre (WCWC) regarding Water Treatment Technologies for mobile on-site training.

To be a leader requires vision. Kamanga continues to be a leader in this field and OFNTSC is proud to have him as a member of the staff. The Water and Wastewater program will continue to work closely with the Advisory Council on Drinking Water Quality and Testing standards throughout the next year. The Water and Wastewater program has always been an important part of OFNTSC. Without the support of the Board of Directors and OFNTSC staff, the Water and Wastewater program would have not been able to achieve success. One of those successes was the promotion of multiple barrier concepts, ensuring safe drinking water for our First Nations. Through the multiple barrier concept came watershed based source protection, knowledge sharing with Ontario technical experts on source water protection threats, detailed engineering assessment reports, initiatives on training and certification and proposals for geographical information and updating of CRTP manuals.

And finally the Water and Wastewater program has been very active in the area of updating Circuit Rider Training Program (CRTP) training manuals. The Water and Wastewater program provided overall project management during the preparation of new CRTP manuals. The new manuals will also cover Class 1 water and wastewater programs. The manuals are being prepared in partnership with University of Guelph and Alfred College.

**Derrick Kamanga, B.A.Sc., P.Eng., M.Eng.**  
Senior Engineer, Water and Wastewater



# CRTP: Water



The Circuit Rider Training Program (CRTP) is one of utmost importance to First Nations. The CRTP program provides hands-on training to First Nations water and wastewater treatment plant operators. This is an area of vital importance in First Nations communities. Healthy water means healthy communities.

Within the past year the CRTP Program has grown significantly. In the past year alone Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC) has received approval to deliver enhanced CRTP training to 68 First Nations across Ontario for 2008-2009. The enhanced CRTP training will include on site instruction in assisting water plant operators with minor repairs at plants and helping First Nation plant operators prepare for licensing examinations.

CRTP's biggest contributor Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) has committed to improving the quality of water in First Nations communities. Through the partnership between INAC and OFNTSC, the training of water plant operators has been on the forefront in the past year. OFNTSC and INAC are committed to achieving the goal of safe water for First Nations in Ontario.

OFNTSC currently has three full time CRTP staff and is in the process of hiring ten additional First Nation trainers. The ten new trainers will provide more capacity in the training of First Nation water plant operators. The trainers will also help deliver the new enhanced CRTP program. The ten trainers will be on contract from various Tribal Councils and First Nations from across Ontario.

Throughout the year OFNTSC's Board of Directors has been making refinements and changes in the way OFNTSC conducts business. The Board of Directors has approved liability insurance for Trainers to assist plant operators to carry out minor emergency repairs. This new directive will allow OFNTSC to be of assistance in times of emergency. OFNTSC looks forward to this new role and responsibility.

The Ontario Environmental Training Consortium (O.E.T.C.) works closely with OFNTSC. The OETC has approved OFNTSC to be the only corporation allowed to provide continuing education units on the CRTP to First Nation plant operators in Ontario. OFNTSC is proud to have this recognition from the OETC.

A project initiated by OFNTSC in the past year has been to classify water treatment plants, water distribution systems, wastewater treatment plants and collection systems. First Nation Engineering Services Limited in cooperation with OFNTSC is coordinating the classification project of the water and wastewater systems. OFNTSC will be looking forward to completing this project within the year.

OFNTSC's Operator-In-Training Manuals, Class-I Water Distribution licensing and certification preparation materials, confined space awareness and basic mathematics modules have been developed by OFNTSC which have OETC approval for awarding continuing education units to plant operators. The new manuals will have theory, instructors manuals and participants workbook.

The existing CRTP manual (consisting of 12 modules) is being updated by the University of Guelph with funding assistance from the Human Resources Social Development Canada – National Literary Secretariat. Once updated there will be 22 modules and four Class I licensing preparation training manuals in water treatment, wastewater treatment, water distribution and wastewater collection systems. All the modules will include theory, instructor's presentation materials and participants work book.

**Mohammed Karim**, P. Eng., M. Eng.  
Senior Engineer, Plant Operations & Operator Training

# CRTP: Fuel Systems Management

To say the least it's been a busy year for the Circuit Rider Bulk Fuel Training Program. In early 2007, Douglas Stuart traveled to Ashcroft First Nation in British Columbia to deliver Fuel Systems Management Training (FSMT).

Participants that attended this session received training in the following areas bonding and grounding, part (four) National Fire Code, dispensing, dipping tanks, record keeping, spill response, spill kits, health and safety and site inspections of community bulk fuel systems.

As well Stuart also provided hands on training at the bulk fuel site located on Ashcroft First Nation, which allowed everyone to practice the skills they learned in the classroom. While training outside of Ontario doesn't happen to OFNTSC often, Stuart and OFNTSC were glad to be part of helping First Nations communities across Canada address their fuel handling training needs.



*Moose Cree First Nation members participate in the Circuit Rider Training Program for fuel handling.*

Through out the year OFNTSC delivered FSMT in 17 remote northern First Nations, during the 2007-2008 fiscal year. The training was well received by the First Nations communities, as well as the participants. In addition to the training given by OFNTSC one 45 gallon spill kit along with one portable bag spill kit was provided to each of the remote First nations who received training.

Participating communities in the FSMT were Fort Severn, Moose Cree, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, Sachigo Lake, Sandy Lake, Kasabonika Lake, Peawanuk, Marten Falls, Attawapiskat, Webequie, Eabametoong, Nibinimik, Cat Lake, Slate Falls, North Caribou Lake and Wunnumun Lake.

In the fall of 2007 at the Landmark Inn, Thunder Bay, Stuart presented information on home heating day tank installations at the Unaffiliated First Nation meeting. The information presented at this meeting was on licensing requirements for tank installations. The response to OFNTSC's presentation on this material was overwhelming. Increased capacity for fuel handling training will be a priority in the coming year.

Due to numerous concerns and recent spills OFNTSC has begun developing an information package on day tank installations. This guide will outline the best practices for installing and maintaining day tanks as well as the licensing requirements. Once the guide is completed, it will be made available to all interested Tribal councils and First Nations.

In March, 2008 Stuart assisted with the coordination of the fuel handling and spill Response training which was held in Dryden, Ontario; for Treaty Three First Nation fuel handlers.

The fuel handling and spill response training was held in conjunction with the City of Dryden and Dryden Flight Services. The City of Dryden provided the location for the training, which was held at the Dryden City Airport. Dryden Flight Services who are the Imperial Oil agent for the airport, assisted with delivering the spill response training. Positive feedback came from all participants with the delivery of OFNTSC's training. Each participant received a vehicle seized spill kit.

In the past year OFNTSC has expanded its advisory services related to fuel systems management to all of the Tribal Councils, Unaffiliated First Nations and Large First Nations within the province. Information related to legislative requirements for bulk fuel systems, home heating tank installations, and best practices is available through the website and Stuart. Furthermore OFNTSC is available to assist with identifying potential training opportunities, fuel system trouble shooting and provide information on fuel equipment distributors and contractors.

OFNTSC realizes that this is an area where more capacity is needed for the future. OFNTSC will work closely with First Nation communities and strategic partners in the next year to ensure education, training and information on bulk fuel handling requests are met.

**Douglas Stuart**, CRTP Fuel Trainer

# Environment and Natural Resources Development



OFNTSC has worked harder in the area of Environment and Natural Resources in the past fiscal year. With such issues as renewable energy sources and lowering the ecological footprint of humans being at the forefront, OFNTSC has looked to increase its capacity and resources in this vital area.

OFNTSC coordinated ten Renewable Energy Technology (RET) screen pre-feasibility analysis studies for First Nations interested in pursuing renewable energy projects. These studies provide preliminary information as to whether proposed projects are economically viable. In addition the studies also highlight potential economic development opportunities related to small hydro and wind power development. These studies can also identify various energy efficiency opportunities for solar wall heating, domestic solar hot water, and ground source heat pump systems which can significantly reduce annual energy costs for non-residential buildings. The funding for the studies was made available through Indian and Northern Affairs Ontario region.

Throughout the year OFNTSC has coordinated eight Community Energy Baseline Studies (CEBS) for various remote northern Ontario First Nations. CEBS provide a First Nation with a clear understanding of their overall annual energy use. The CEBS takes into account all sources of energy used for both residential and commercial purposes.

The CEBS contains information pertaining to associated cost of energy for each energy source specified (fuel, wood, electricity, annual community energy consumption, annual greenhouse gas emissions related to energy use for both residential and commercial sectors, energy savings opportunities, alternative energy opportunities, sources of funding and community energy map which is a visual of annual community energy use costs.

OFNTSC in the past year has been focused on promoting energy conservation within First Nations across the province. OFNTSC collaborated with Charles Fox Consulting, Ontario Power Authority, Hydro One remotes, Energy Matters, and Windfall Ecology to effectively carry out energy conservation programs.

A successful Powercost Monitor program for on-grid First Nations communities in Northern Ontario was implemented in 2007/08. This was a joint initiative between OFNTSC and Hydro One Networks. The initiative was to encourage energy conservation by making available a free Powercost Monitor to any interested residential Hydro One Network customers in the eligible program area. A Powercost Monitor is a two part device that displays the amount of real time electricity being used along with the approximate cost of usage.

In September of 2007 OFNTSC participated in the North American Indigenous Peoples Forum in Winnipeg, Manitoba. This three day forum was hosted by the Secretariat of the Commission for Environmental Co-operation (CEC) and the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) and allowed indigenous people from Canada, United States and Mexico to engage in discussions to outline environmental priorities and concerns to the CEC.

OFNTSC participated in a panel discussion related to renewable energy opportunities and project development. A presentation was delivered on behalf of OFNTSC pertaining to renewable energy initiatives being undertaken by First Nations in the province of Ontario and some of the funding opportunities available. As well the accomplishments of the former Aboriginal and Northern Community Action Program (ANCAP) were discussed. ANCAP distributed over 1.6 Million dollars to First Nation communities that identified renewable energy projects in Ontario.

**Michelle Glens**, Environmental & Natural Resources Technologist

# Fire Safety Program

Fire Safety is of vital importance to all communities. In its 12th year of existence the Fire Safety program continues to educate First Nations communities on issues pertaining to fire protection. Fire Safety has been an area of focus in the past year for OFNTSC. The Fire Program has to provide the First Nation Fire Prevention Officers with advisory technical services for a various number of items. These items include fire prevention, code interpretation, emergency service vehicles, community fire prevention issues, fire department administration, fire equipment distribution/purchase, and advice for fire inspection services. The OFNTSC assistance to this vital program has developed a close working relationship with the Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC) Labour Program.



OFNTSC provides fire inspection services to First Nation communities not covered by HRSDC inspections of smaller buildings. The continuation of the Fire Prevention Program from year to year has provided a great deal of fire protection/prevention. The information gathered has been sent out to Tribal councils, Large First Nations and Unaffiliated First Nations that in many situations interact daily with community based fire prevention programs.

The Fire Protection Prevention Poster Competition has enjoyed another successful year. This ongoing program in cooperation with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) Technical Services has been a huge hit with youth, who are learning what Fire prevention is all about. OFNTSC has been entering the regional Ontario winner into the National Poster competition with some success. Each year the participation from First Nation's in the competition grows by both school and students representing their school. This year's competition brought in well over 300 posters. Way to go students!

During the last year OFNTSC also carried out a plan and specification review. OFNTSC established a second Fire Engineer position from the HRSDC Labour program to assist the review. The fire engineering service allowed OFNTSC to provide a more time sensitive service for Tribal Councils, Large First Nations and Unaffiliated First Nations.

To ensure that First Nations are constantly keeping up with new building ideas, OFNTSC has through negotiations with HRSDC obtained a budget administrator for the National Building Code Part 3 – Fire Protection training sessions. The HRSDC Labour Program in conjunction with the Fire Protection Engineers carried out a regional training session in central Ontario. With a new introduction into objective based building code training this training was entirely classroom based. The 16 participants obtained valuable information for their respective First Nations from OFNTSC staff.

As well OFNTSC has provided technical advisory services to all First Nations that have the National Building Code Part 3 buildings located in their respective territories. The buildings that fall under this section of code were inspected by OFNTSC staff for fire safety and fire engineering deficiencies. The HRSDC mandated through the Treasury Board of Canada and INAC a memorandum of understanding to provide fire inspection and fire engineering services to all First Nations in Ontario. A backlog of existing inspections waiting to be done has now been cleared up by OFNTSC and HRSDC.

The HRSDC have now conducted over 1300 First Nation Part 3 building code inspections for fire and safety related issues. There is however a growing issue in that through the inspections it has been identified that there are over 10,000 listed deficiencies across Ontario First Nations pertaining to the Part 3 Buildings. A cause for concern among OFNTSC and HRSDC is that no steps have been taken to address these concerns. OFNTSC will work diligently to find a resolution to this major issue in the coming year.

Each year OFNTSC collects fire loss reports from across the province and compiles the reports into an annual report. From there OFNTSC submits these results to OFNTSC's Board of Directors and INAC. The reports are collected on a calendar basis and last years report came back with some startling results. 2007 proved to be the highest year for loss of life across Ontario with 6 total deaths. Fires can be particularly damaging to First Nations due to lack of funds to rebuild housing and buildings. For the fiscal year of 2007, analysis shows that a loss of over \$1.6 million dollars was absorbed in First Nations communities. \$1.4 million of that total specifically pertained to First Nation homes.

There is much to be done on the Fire Safety program, however OFNTSC looks forward to working with its First Nations partners to ensure we all have safe homes.

**Brian Staats**, CRSP, Fire Safety

# Housing



Ken Boyer inspects an R2000 home being built on Batchewana, First Nation.

Housing Services at OFNTSC strives to provide First Nations communities with the necessary training, information and tools necessary to achieve self sufficiency over community housing. This is accomplished by developing and maintaining partnerships with federal agencies and other organizations, participating on housing related committees, researching, analyzing and reporting on various policies and programs, as well as providing advice on specific areas including community housing policies, construction, renovation and maintenance, code interpretation and code compliance and energy efficiency.

OFNTSC in the past year has been committed to developing the capacity of technical service providers, such as building inspectors and builders, by providing technical courses and workshops. As an authorized delivery agent for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH), OFNTSC continues to provide MMAH building code courses. With funds from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), several courses were delivered including Part 9 The House- Health and Safety with one course held in Thunder Bay and the other held in Akwesasne; and an Intermediate Plumbing course held in Thunder Bay.

Throughout the year increasing energy costs have been motivating communities to seek out building options that are more energy efficient and sustainable. As such, OFNTSC will

continue to be actively involved in promoting energy efficiency in new home construction and helping to raise awareness and demand for energy efficient houses from both communities and builders.

Through a renewed contribution agreement with Natural Resources Canada and funds from CMHC, OFNTSC coordinated and delivered courses under the R2000 program and the EnerGuide for new houses, now known as the EnerGuide for Houses Rating Service. R2000 Builder Workshops were held in Kashechewan First Nation and Batchewana First Nation. We predict the demand for energy efficient housing will increase in the future. For this reason, OFNTSC will be recruiting, training and certifying energy advisors. We will be better able to meet the demand and provide energy efficiency advice and evaluations to communities and builders. Two Energy Advisor workshops were delivered in the past year one in Thunder Bay and one in Sudbury. From these workshops, fourteen energy advisor trainees will fulfill their mentoring requirements and become certified energy advisors.

OFNTSC is currently reviewing the training needs of technical service providers by embarking on a Technical Training needs analysis which will be followed by a two-year training plan. Results will better connect our service delivery in training to the needs of technical service providers.

Participation on several committees allows OFNTSC to be better able to convey information and provide advice on government housing policies, latest trends and new initiatives in housing. Committee participation includes the Ontario Regional Liaison Committee, Allocation Working Group, Mould Committee and the AFN Chiefs Committee on Housing's technical working group. OFNTSC will remain committed to strengthening these relationships as they're important to improving First Nations people's lives.

OFNTSC continues to provide technical assistance and advice to the Chiefs of Ontario and the Ontario First Nations Steering Committee on Housing. Four meetings occurred during the 07-08 fiscal year. In January, OFNTSC successfully led a planning session which resulted in a comprehensive Strategic Plan that will guide initiatives related to specific housing issues that the committee deemed were priorities. OFNTSC also participates as a member of the First Nations Northern Housing Conference Committee with representatives from the Northern Tribal Councils. The 6th annual conference, which was held in February 2008, attracted 174 delegates, 34 tradeshow exhibitors, and sponsorships from INAC, CMHC, Health Canada, and Errington TIM-BR Mart.

The conference agenda focused on the housing construction process and included topics such as plans and specifications, foundations, framing, window installation, and building envelope. New to the conference were demonstrations of construction, which were followed by a builder's challenge.

In January, Gary Toulouse joined OFNTSC as a Housing Advisor for the Toronto Service Centre. Toulouse, formerly a technical service provider for the North Shore Tribal Council and OFNTSC, joined the team to provide housing advice, information and training to Tribal Councils and all First Nations in Ontario. OFNTSC is looking forward to the expertise and knowledge that Toulouse will bring to First Nation communities across Ontario.

**Grace Martineau**, Housing Advisor  
**Gary Toulouse**, Housing Advisor

# Infrastructure Program

Infrastructure Specialists provide technical knowledge life lines to First Nations communities. Infrastructure Specialists are key in providing housing inspections, housing policy support, operations and maintenance advisory, Capital Asset Management System updating (CAMS), Asset Condition Reporting System (ACRS), Capital Asset Inventory System support (CAIS), Training advisory, Minor Capital advisory and liaising with external departmental agencies for First Nation needs.

Infrastructure Specialists also share a great deal of responsibility when out in the field. The Specialists are involved with six stages of compliance for all new houses being built on First Nations through Ontario. Those stages are plan evaluation such as code compliance, R2000 and EnerGuide for new houses. In addition to the plan evaluation other stages include Lot/site review, foundation, framing, vapour barrier/insulation and final inspections.

One area of interest that has been growing during the past fiscal year is Housing policy and Program Support. Housing policy and Program support provide advisory services in Housing policies and program development. The advisory service includes information sharing on 'Best Practices' and the development of long term strategies that allow First Nations to build efficient homes. In addition to these initiatives Policy and Support also include R2000 initiatives and Energy efficiency initiatives.

Throughout the past year Infrastructure Specialists have been putting together training for new staff for First Nations in CAMS. The Specialists also input and ensure completion of each southern Unaffiliated First Nations' 5 year Capital Plan documents. Specialists have also improved building code compliance and certification. They delivered more introductions for ventilation workshops in southern Ontario and completed an indoor air quality investigators training session.

Each year CAMS is updated to ensure that current data is being utilized. The CAMS is updated October, 15th of every year. In addition to these updates Infrastructure Specialists are providing advisory services support to complete a three year ACRS review of all Indian and Northern Affairs Canada funded assets. A complete review of the Capital Asset Inventory System (CAIS) for listed assets for public works staff during the next year as well.

Minor Capital solutions are an area that has been identified as needing more resources. Tom Northardt and Derek Laronde of the Toronto service centre were involved with the delivery of Wasauksing First Nations Introduction to Ventilation workshops. The ventilation workshop aim is to increase the awareness of First Nations working to reduce powerful chemical and solvents use, and where possible include a mechanical ventilation method to suit the dwelling requirements and occupant lifestyle.

OFNTSC has been providing Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) with Property Condition Reports (PCR) for First Nations. Some of those First Nations include Mnjikaning, Wahta Mohawks and Mohawks of Akwesasne First Nations' respectively. Those reports are part of the asset review function required by CMHC, which helps First Nations determine the value of property and point out any maintenance needs associated with housing assets.

OFNTSC continues to offer Builder Series Workshops. These workshops are aimed at the community level to teach techniques and skills to First Nations people building homes. In addition to these workshops the Infrastructure Specialists have provided Unaffiliated First Nations with a workshop concentrating on their specific needs while bringing First Nation representatives together with government and engineering representatives to address common issues.

In the future, the Infrastructure program will be working with Ontario Unaffiliated First Nations to increase the production of R2000 units. Through an awareness campaign OFNTSC will look to promote and deliver homes built to the R2000 standard.

**Thomas Northardt, Derek Laronde** (Toronto Service Centre), Infrastructure Specialists  
**Richard Chukra, Clarence Meekis and Jonathan Gregg** (Thunder Bay Service Centre), Infrastructure Specialists



An R2000 home awaits inspection by an OFNTSC's Infrastructure Specialist.

# Operations and Maintenance



Operations and Maintenance (O&M) provides vital support to First Nations communities in managing valuable capital assets. The O&M program provides support and development in vital areas such as Capital Asset Management System (CAMS), Capital Asset Inventory System (CAIS), Capital Management Database (CMDDB), Asset Condition Reporting System (ACRS), ACRS Terms of Reference, Municipal Type Agreements (MTA), School Facility Files, Community Maintenance Systems (CMS), Conditional Assessment & Housing Database (CAHD), O & M Forecast Model for Water and Wastewater and the Integrated Capital Management System (ICMS).

Within the past year O&M has worked with an updated ICMS. Ontario First Nation Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC) throughout the year has been providing support and advice to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

(INAC), National ICMS Focus Groups on the development of this new O&M reporting system that is scheduled to be available to First Nations in mid-2008. The ICMS is a Departmental/First Nations web based asset management system and will replace INAC's existing CAMS system.

The ICMS latest developments include the addition of inventory tools such as the INAC Water Database and their Long Term Capital Plans (LTCP). The National ICMS Working Group is presently developing a National First Nations Training Strategy that will include training delivery methods and a schedule for training all First Nation communities. OFNTSC has proposed that all Tribal Councils, Large First Nations and Unaffiliated First Nations in Ontario receive the in-depth training required to sufficiently manage ICMS. ICMS will also provide First Nation communities access to the O&M database via the internet, as well streamline the annual reporting requirements and request for O&M data.

The past year has also introduced improvements to the O&M Forecasting Model for Water and Wastewater treatment plants. This revised version of the model would provide First Nations with improved funding on the water collection data, distribution, labour and energy costs. The revised version will seek approval at INAC's May, 2008 Senior Manager Meeting.

O&M has also been actively involved with a First Nations Fire Protection Survey. The draft version of the Fire Protection and O&M survey is near completion. The survey will identify fire fighting capabilities and the level of fire protection standards in First Nations communities. In addition to this vital information that the First Nations Fire Protection Survey will provide, it will also give OFNTSC a comprehensive database that pertains to fire protection equipment, fire halls, volunteers and training requirements within each community.

A Maintenance Management System (MMS) is in the initial stages of development by OFNTSC. For First Nations a complete MMS could be used to notify First Nations of maintenance needs to community buildings, roads and bridges, water & wastewater treatment plants and mobile equipment as well providing tools for creating work orders and tracking costs associated to operation and maintenance.

**Elmer Lickers**, Operations and Maintenance Technologist

# Communications



Communications is the process of transferring information from a sender to receiver or vice versa. In the 20th century we have multiple ways of communicating with each other. Be it TV, radio, websites, newspapers or just plain good talking. The biggest of those now is the internet. As of December, 2007 over 1.3 billion people world wide were using the internet according to Internet world statistics. Alone last year the internet generated \$62.7 billion for the Canadian economy. This is where the future lies for OFNTSC.

OFNTSC provides essential support and technical expertise to First Nations people everyday across Ontario. Communications aims to enhance this expertise by launching a revamped website in the coming months. This new site will include multimedia projects and cutting edge media technology to allow stakeholders, clients, Tribal councils, First Nations and the general public to connect even more with OFNTSC and its staff.

Web 2.0 media will be a new addition this year to the website. Web 2.0 media aims to increase creativity, as well as foster information sharing and most notably collaboration among users. This will allow OFNTSC to develop web communities, wiki's, file sharing, blogs and RSS feeds.

In the past year Communications has been publishing New Directions a quarterly update intended for internal and external consumption. New Directions focus is to provide information on recent work, new initiatives, ongoing projects as well as conferences, workshops and training. In addition to New Directions, Communications also made available monthly updates.

As well OFNTSC prepares an annual report for the Chiefs of Ontario annual meeting to keep our stakeholders informed of initiatives being carried out. The annual report consists of messages from the President, Executive Director, and Branch managers. The report also includes program updates from all portfolios that OFNTSC and partners have identified as areas where more technical expertise and support is needed.

Strengthening ties between OFNTSC and partners, stakeholders, clients, Tribal councils has been on the forefront for Communications this past year. The relationships that OFNTSC has are pivotal to the success of the Corporation. This is clearly evident in the partnerships that OFNTSC shares with Tribal Councils, Federal and Provincial Governments, clients and stakeholders. Without these partnerships OFNTSC would be without foundation. Through the dissemination of information to these key relationships the Communications branch of OFNTSC looks to constantly improve the image and brand of OFNTSC.

Communications also participated in the preparation of the hugely successful 2008 Water Symposium. In association with other OFNTSC departments, Communications assisted in the preparation of promotional materials, as well as some advertising in newspapers, magazines and websites. The Symposium was well received by the attendee's and ultimately encouraged First Nations people to come together to discuss water related issues facing all First nations in Ontario.

Outreach has been an essential focus as well for OFNTSC in the past year. Outreach was designed to reach out to Governments (Federal and Provincial), Municipalities, the corporate sector, non-profit organizations and other agencies to explore options for alternative program and special project funding. This initiative will be enhanced through out the next year with the placement of a multi-year funding agreement.

Finally Communications has moved forward in identifying qualified First Nations people to join and support OFNTSC. By participating in career fairs and visiting with universities, colleges and post secondary institutes, Communications has been attracting more First Nations people to OFNTSC. We are proud to provide support and improve the lives of First Nations People across Ontario.

**Dennis Martel**, Communications Officer

**Colin French**, Communications Officer

# 2008 Water Symposium

In March 2008 at the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel in Niagara Falls, Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC) in partnership with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, The Aboriginal Water and Wastewater Association of Ontario (AWWAO) and Health Canada organized the 2008 First Nations Water Symposium.

The Symposium was designed to bring together Chiefs, Band Administrators/Managers, Third Party managers, Directors of Health, Community Health Representatives, Directors of Public Works and water plant operators to discuss current issues facing water plant operators.

The symposium was to facilitate discussions for the continued access to information in drinking water services and public health in the face of new challenges to First Nations people. Key topics discussed during the symposium included emergency planning, best practices, monitoring/reporting, the science of water and water processes and procedures.

Delegates came from far and wide to participate in the symposium. A tally of participants showed that over a 150 managers, administrators, operators and engineers participated. Out of a possible 134 First Nations in Ontario that could have participated, 101 First Nations did.



OFNTSC Executive Director, Bob Howsam with the Assembly of First Nations Grand Chief Phil Fontaine and OFNTSC's Operations and Maintenance Technologist Elmer Lickers at the 2008 First Nations Water Symposium.



OFNTSC's Technical Manager, James Taylor talks water with Michelle Poirier of Abenaki Associates.

The opening address's on the first day of the symposium were given by Chief William Montour of Six Nations Grand River Territory; as well as James Owl, President of OFNTSC, Bob Howsam, Executive Director of OFNTSC, Kelvin Jamieson, AWWAO Chairperson, Paul Strohack, Health Canada, Assembly of First Nations Regional Chief of Ontario Angus Toulouse and Stephanie Crystal, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Keynote speakers on the first day included Bob McDonald, Host of CBC's Quirks and Quarks. McDonald has been communicating science internationally through television, radio, print and live presentations for more than 30 years. McDonald gave a key note address on climate change "Water Under Fire" and our vanishing resources.

The second Keynote was given by Dr. Kristy Duncan from the University of Toronto. Dr. Duncan is a Canadian medical geographer. Dr. Duncan led an international, multi-discipline scientific expedition to exhume bodies of a group of Norwegian miners who died in the 1918 influenza pandemic. Her keynote address focused on the coming "Pandemic Influenza".

The second day included a presentation by OFNTSC's first President Earl Commanda. Speaking on behalf of Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Commanda along with Kathleen Padullo from the Chiefs of Ontario, and OFNTSC's James Taylor talked about First Nations Water Management Strategy success stories and challenges.

Later in the afternoon there was a candid presentation with none other than the AFN's National Chief Phil Fontaine. Fontaine presented a global perspective on water issues facing Indigenous people across the world.

Sponsorship of the symposium came from two major sources and some of OFNTSC and AWWAO's strongest relationships. Those two partners were Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and Health Canada. With out these two integral partners and their financial contributions, the 2008 First Nations Water Symposium would have not been possible. XCG and WaterTrax also hosted a hospitality suite the first night of the symposium.

A special thanks goes out to Elmer Lickers, OFNTSC's Operations and Maintenance Technologist and Cindy Owl, AWWAO Coordinator for all of the hard work and dedication that made the 2008 First Nations Water Symposium such a huge success.



Host of CBC's Quirks and Quarks, Bob McDonald and OFNTSC's Elmer Lickers.



OFNTSC's Board of Directors, attends the 2008 First Nations Water Symposium.

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