

2008
2009

A N N U A L
R E P O R T



Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation





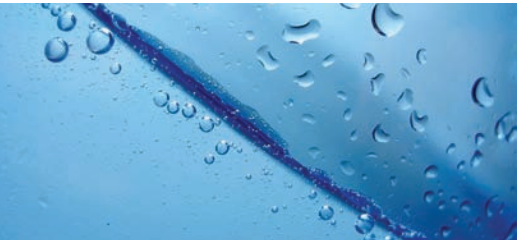
Mission Statement

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.



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Our Communities

“The OFNTSC would like to acknowledge the creation of Nokiiwin Tribal Council and its representation on the OFNTSC Board of Directors, as of June 1/2009.”

Anishinaabeg of Kabapikotawangag Resources

Anishinaabeg of Naongashing
Wauzhushk Onigum
Big Grassy River
Northwest Angle #35
Northwest Angle #37
Ojibways of Onigaming

Bimose Tribal Council

Eagle Lake
Asubpeescheewagong Netum Anishinabek
Iskatewizaagegan # 39
Lac Des Mille Lacs
Naotkamegwanning
Shoal Lake # 40
Wabaseemoong
Wabauskang
Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation
Obashkannndagaang
Ochiichagwe'Babigo'Ining

Matawa First Nations Management Inc.

Aroland
Constance Lake
Eabametoong
Ginnogaming
Long Lake#58
Marten Falls
Neskantaga
Nibinamik
Webequie

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

Couchiching
Lac La Croix
Naicatchewenin
Nicickousemenecaning
Rainy River
Seine River
Stanjikoming

Unaffiliated Northern First Nations

Biinjitiwabik Zaaging Anishinabek
Gull Bay
Fort William
Kaishke Zaaging Anishinaabek
Michipocoten
Mishkeegogamang
Ojibways of Pic River
Pays Plat
Pic Mobert
Red Rock

Keewaytinook Okimakanak Tribal Council

Deer Lake
Fort Severn
Keewaywin
McDowell Lake
North Spirit Lake
Poplar Hill

Shibogama First Nations Council

Kasabonika
Wapekeka
Wawakapewin
Wunnumin Lake
Kingfisher Lake

Windigo First Nations Council

Bearskin Lake
Cat Lake
Koocheching
North Caribou Lake
Sachigo Lake
Slate Falls Nation
Whitewater Lake

Independent First Nations Alliance

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig
Muskrat Dam
Pikangikum
Whitesand
Lac Seul

Mushkegowuk Tribal Council

Attawapiskat
Chapleau Cree
Fort Albany
Kashechewan
Missanabie Cree
Moose Cree
Taykwa Tagamou

Wabun Tribal Council

Beaverhouse
Brunswick House
Chapleau Ojibwe
Matachewan
Mattagmi
Wahgoshig
Flying Post

North Shore Tribal Council

Garden River
Mississauga #8
Batchewana
Sagamok Anishinawbek
Serpent River
Thessalon
Whitefish Lake

United Chiefs and Councils of Manitoulin

M'Chigeeng(West Bay)
Aundeck Omni Kaning
Sheguiandah
Sheshewaning
Whitefish River
Zhiibaahaasing

Waabnoog Bemjiwang Association of First Nations

Dokis
Henvey Inlet
Magnetawan
Nipissing
Wahnapiatae

Unaffiliated Southern First Nations

Shawanaga
Temagami (Bear Island)
Wasauksing(Parry Island)
Weenusk
Wahta Mohawks
Mississaugas of New Credit
Hiawatha
Curve lake
Chippewas of Saugeen
Chippewas of Nawash
Algonquins of Pikwakanagan

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
Oneida Nation of the Thames

Ogemawahj Tribal Council

Chippewas of Beausoleil
Chippewas of Georgina Island
Mnjikaning
Mississaugas of Alderville
Mississaugas of Scugog Island
Pottawatomi of Moose Deer Point

Large First Nations

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

Board of Directors



Wesley Bova,
President
Matawa First
Nations Management



Kevin Debassige,
Vice President
United Chiefs & Councils



Jason Batise,
Treasurer
Wabun Tribal Council



Scott Maracle, Secretary
Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte



Jay Benedict,
Executive Committee Member
Mohawk Council of Akwesasne



Keith J. Maracle,
Executive Committee Member
Ogemawahj Tribal Council



David Gordon,
Executive Committee Member
Lac Seul First Nation



Doug McKenzie,
Executive Committee Member
Temagami First Nation



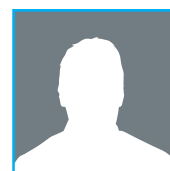
Richard Habinski,
Executive Committee Member
Windigo First Nations Council



Derek Hill
Six Nations of the
Grand River Territory



Jackie Hall
Mushkegowuk
Tribal Council



Patrick Isaac
Bkwejiwang Territory



Mathew Hoppe
Shibogama First Nations
Council



William Assinewai
Wikwemikong Unceded
First Nation



Randy Roy
Waabnoong Bemjiwang
Association of First Nations



Chief Lyle Sayers
North Shore Tribal Council



Jerry Lavalley
Algonquins of
Pikwakanagan First Nation



Joe C. Meekis
Sandy Lake First Nation



Travis Duncan
Independent First
Nations Alliance



Tim Bannon
Fort William First Nation



Peter Campbell
Keewaytinook Okimakanak
Tribal Council



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



Eugene McPherson
Anishinabek of
Kabaspikotawangag
Resource Council



Paul Seguin
Nokiwin Tribal Council Inc

VACANT
Bimose Tribal Council

VACANT
Southern First Nations Secretariat



President's Message

Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC) Board of Directors, management and staff endeavor to strengthen and increase the technical capacity of First Nations people.

Recent changes have the Corporation in line with our latest strategic plan and recent organizational review. Organizational restructuring has improved efficiency of the organization and continuity of service across the province.

A significant component, that will vastly improve the awareness of the corporation and its ability to meet First Nation's needs, will come from the recently developed and implemented communications strategy. This strategy utilizes a web based approach ensuring up to date information regarding all aspects of our operations and is provided on our corporate website:

www.ofntsc.org

The website also has a discussion forum to facilitate open dialogue on issues and concerns amongst First Nations communities. I encourage and invite you to visit our site and provide feedback or suggestions for improvement.

In addition to facilitating additional dialogue within the First Nations community, the corporation continually seeks to improve our partnerships and relationships with external agencies in efforts to improve existing services and to create new ones.

We are dedicated to the advancement of First Nations and our efforts will remain diligent to the task.

Sincerely,

Wesley Bova, P.Eng.
President

Executive Director's Message



We are pleased to present our Annual Report for the 2008-2009 operating year. We are proud of the accomplishments of our staff as they provide services to improve the lives of First Nations people living on Reserves in Ontario.

Our focus this year has been on delivering our core services with excellence, as well as ensuring the project activity we have been involved in meets the same standard. Another area of focus has been on maintaining and developing partnerships. The key partnerships we have are with the Tribal Councils and First Nations. Whether they are located in the North or the South, or whether they are large or small, we have been working actively with them to make sure OFNTSC services contribute to their goals and successes.

We have been fortunate in having a stable staffing compliment through most of the year. We can only be as successful as a Corporation, as our staff is individually and collectively. I also would like to thank our Executive Committee and our Board of Directors for their leadership and strong support through the past year.

We look forward to 2009-2010 with optimism and an ongoing commitment to meet our mandate.

Bob Howsam,
Executive Director



Technical Manager's Report

Boozhoo,

The Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation has successfully completed fourteen years of service delivery to First Nations and Tribal Councils across Ontario.

Safe water is a right for every person and OFNTSC remains involved in the water and wastewater program for this reason. INAC has reintroduced a water protocol document and issued draft documents on a wastewater and decentralized systems protocol. These documents have been reviewed and commented on during meetings facilitated by INAC. The final documents have not been issued but progress is being monitored by the engineering staff at OFNTSC.

OFNTSC believes that these protocols will be considered and possibly utilized in any national water legislation being considered by the federal government. During late fall and winter of this year, engagement sessions on water legislation became the focus of technical and political advisors for First Nations across Canada. OFNTSC's engineers participated through conference calls organized

by the Assembly of First Nations that discussed options and concerns around the INAC approach to legislation. We also attended the two Ontario engagement sessions to become more aware of the concerns regarding political leadership in Ontario. OFNTSC will remain informed in these legislation matters so that advice can be provided to First Nations across the region on this very important matter.

Another initiative by INAC involves an engineering assessment of water and wastewater facilities of First Nations across Canada. INAC and their government partners prepared terms of reference for this project. OFNTSC engineers reviewed the document and provided a series of comments addressing our concerns. There have been delays in requesting proposals and in awarding the consultant contract. We have been following the progress up to the recent award of a contract to a First Nation consultant. Our engineers will participate in a review of the first phase of the project, the inception report, and provide comments on the consultant's proposed plan of accomplishing the project.

In addition, the engineering group is involved in projects specific to individual First Nations and Tribal Councils. During the past year we have seen the completion of two water treatment plants, the preparation of terms of reference for several projects including water supply studies and capital planning. We participated in project teams for construction projects. We delivered training in water and wastewater

courses at the AWWAO conference, delivered presentations at national water conferences, participated in committees and provided advice to Chiefs of Ontario on water issues and infrastructure needs. We also responded to requests for generic terms of reference, reviews of documents and studies.

OFNTSC has provided the CRTP service for many years. This hands-on training program delivers water, wastewater and fuel handling training to First Nation operators at their own facility. It's a successful way to convey operations and maintenance knowledge to trainees. The CRTP program is recognized in Canada as being highly successful and innovative. The program is currently delivered to sixty eight First Nations. The program comes at no cost to participating First Nations and is funded by INAC on an annual basis.

Doug Stuart of the CRTP Fuel program has provided valuable training to people who handle fuel in First Nations. This CRTP program is being prepared to begin providing advice to First Nations on how to better maintain home storage tanks.

The engineering and CRTP staff are pleased to have been able to assist First Nations in their goals and projects over this past year. We look forward to continuing to provide advisory and training services during this upcoming year.

Miigwetch,

Jim Taylor, P. Eng.
Technical Manager

Operations Manager's Report

This past year has once again been a very productive and busy year for the OFNTSC.

Along with continued service delivery in all program areas, the OFNTSC has seen increased service requests in the environmental and fire protection program areas. In March 2009, the OFNTSC capped off the fiscal year with our federal partner Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) with a major acquisition of six (6) Fire Trucks for six (6) communities as selected by INAC and a major bulk fire equipment purchase for all First Nations across Ontario.

The housing sector of the OFNTSC has not shown any sign of slowing within our client areas for Infrastructure Specialist, Training and Housing Advisory. All program areas continue to be requested for service at a high growth rate. The OFNTSC has completed services with Tribal Councils and Large First Nations for cost recovery for

services. The OFNTSC are still active members in the Steering Committee on Housing for Ontario, and will continue to be a resource for all other housing areas.

The Operations Services include Environment, Fire Protection, Infrastructure Housing, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) and AWWAO. The O&M service of the OFNTSC has been at the forefront for issues of concern for First Nations in Ontario throughout the past year. Some of those issues were:

- Distribution and training for our First Nations clients on the newly created versions of the Integrated Capital Management System(ICMS) program
- O&M Cost Model for Water & Wastewater was to provide First Nations with enhanced O&M funding on water collection and distribution, and
- PSAB - Public Sector Accounting Board, Section 3150

The developed sense of teamwork through both the Toronto and Thunder Bay Service Centres have proven to be a great tool for problem solving and appreciative working environments and we feel this has taken root and our 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 their support and allowing me, as Operational Manager, to bring ideas to the Board of Directors and I would also like to recognize the entire OFNTSC Staff for their support and continued dedication to their jobs during this time.

Brian Staats, CRSP
Operations Manager



Student Achievement Awards



The Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC) recognizes the time, dedication and sacrifice students have to make in order to achieve their goal of graduation from College or University in the fields of Science and Technology. The OFNTSC believes in the importance of having First Nations people achieving successful careers in Science and Technology and applying their expertise to working with our communities. Thus each year the OFNTSC takes the opportunity to honour the achievements of First Nations students who have persevered in attaining a high level of education in the field of Science and Technology.

The OFNTSC has cultivated a relationship of respect and understanding with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). CMHC has been exceptionally generous in support of OFNTSC housing initiatives, training and the Annual Technical Conference and Tradeshow. CMHC has also joined the OFNTSC, in becoming a steadfast supporter of First Nations students pursuing careers in Science and Technology. It is with great pleasure that the OFNTSC and CMHC introduce to you the 2008 Student Achievement Award Winners.



Timothy Krug is currently enrolled in Civil Technology at Confederation College. Krug comes from

Sachigo Lake First Nation. Sachigo Lake is located 425 km north of Sioux Lookout and has a population of 447. Krug is originally from Big Trout Lake, but when he married he changed his membership to Sachigo Lake. Krug spends his summers working as a plumber in Sachigo Lake on new housing being built and studies water treatment when not working. Krug is fluent in Oji-Cree and believes that “it is never too late to achieve your dreams.”



Wilson Sands is pursuing education through the Chemical Production Engineering Technology

program at Lambton College. Sands comes from Walpole Island First Nation (Bkwejwang Territory). Walpole Island is located on Lake St. Clair and straddles the Canadian, U.S. border and has a population of 2,108. In the time when Sands is not studying Chemical Engineering, he volunteers as a Firefighter for the Walpole Island Fire Department. Sands has been a volunteer Firefighter for ten years in his community.



Jonathan Whittaker is a part of the Computer Science program at Ryerson University. Whittaker hails

from Chippewas of Nawash First Nation, located on the east shore of the Bruce Peninsula on Georgian Bay. Chippewas of Nawash has a population of 2,075. Born and raised in Toronto, Whittaker takes every chance to get back home as often as he can. During his own time, Whittaker fixes computers in the Ryerson Native Student Centre. Through the summer Whittaker joined the OFNTSC family, as support to the communications program. Whittaker likes to contribute to his community by being well informed and proud of where he comes from.



Nicole Recollet attends Sault College of Applied Arts and Technology for Geographic Information

Systems. Recollet comes from Wahnapiatae First Nation which is located 25 km north of Sudbury, ON. The on-reserve population is 36. Recollet, when not studying becomes actively involved with her First Nations sustainable development department by collecting GPS data. Recollet wants to apply her educational background in order to enhance sustainability in First Nations. Recollet would like to develop and clarify resource management techniques for First Nations by utilizing the Geographic Information System.



Leanna Farr is currently enrolled in a joint Environmental Science and LLB program at York University. Farr

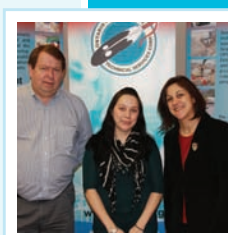
comes from Temagami First Nation which is located 95 km north of North Bay, ON. The total population of Temagami First Nation is 608. A long time resident of Bear Island, Farr thinks once her education is complete she would like to relocate back to Bear Island. During the summer Farr returns to Bear Island to work for her community in forestry negotiations, land use planning and membership. Farr hopes to practice law within the field of environmental and Aboriginal rights.



Phillip Schoch is attending the University of Guelph for a Bachelor of Engineering. Schoch is

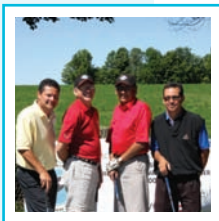
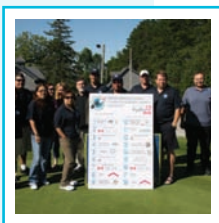
from Mississauga First Nation. Mississauga First Nation is located 3km west of Blind River, ON and has a population of 420. Schoch volunteers his time for youth gatherings and tutoring in Science and Math. During the summer, Schoch works for his First Nation public works department. Schoch believes in the future, that more First Nations people are needed in Engineering to help develop environmentally friendly solutions for First Nation communities.

The OFNTSC on behalf of our President and Board of Directors would like to congratulate the winners of the 2008 OFNTSC Student Achievement Awards. We thank all those that applied for these prestigious awards. A special thanks goes out to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation for donating two awards for the forth year to promote First Nations educational attainment. Please join us in 2009 for the 14th Annual Golf Classic in support of First Nations Students pursuing careers in Science and Technology.



Student Classic Golf Tournament

Aug. 19/08 Orilla



First Nations, Tribal Councils, private sector partners and corporate partners all came together to support First Nations students in careers of science and technology for the 13th Annual Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC) Student Classic.

The sun was shining, and a cool wind swept across the faces of the golfers who came out in support of the students. OFNTSC President Mathew Hoppe was joined by OFNTSC Executive Director Bob Howsam, and Peter Gregg, Vice President, Corporate and Regulatory Affairs, Hydro One, along with Lee Anne Cameron, Director, First Nations and Métis Relations, Hydro One for a round of golf.

The Golf Classic also saw some former board members and past presidents participate with OFNTSC's corporate sector partners such as the team of First Nations Engineering Ltd. The team consisted of Craig Baker, Sean Batise, Jason Batise and Frank Fisher. The OFNTSC's Sharon McGuire and

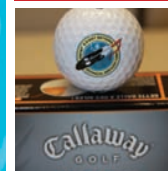
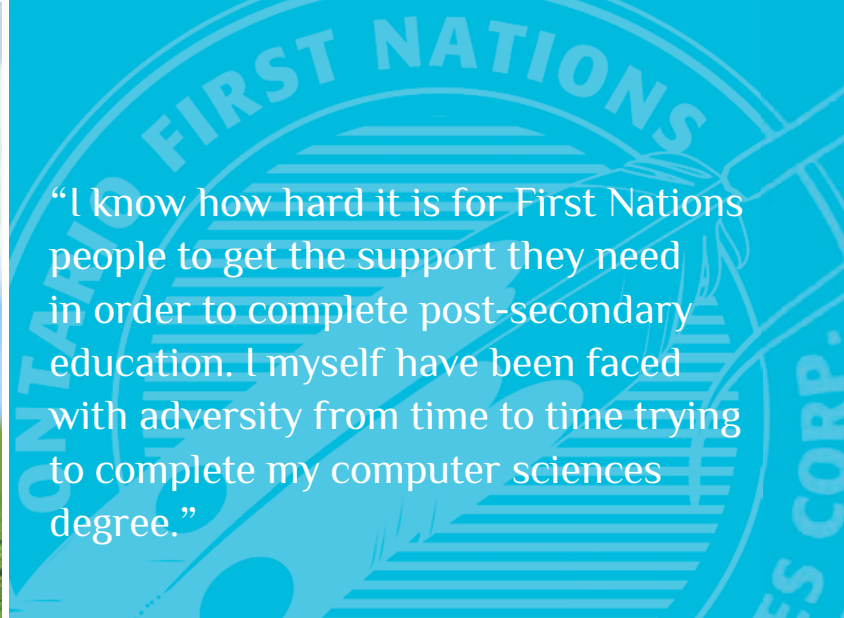
AWWAO's Cindy Owl teamed up with Chasity Toulouse and Becky Toulouse from the North Shore Tribal Council.

Hydro One was the OFNTSC's Major Sponsor for this year's golf tournament. The money raised through this day is directed towards First Nations students who are pursuing careers in science and technology. Students like Jonathan Whittaker who not only was a recipient of an OFNTSC Student Award, but also interned over the summer at the OFNTSC. Whittaker volunteered his time during the fun filled day to ensure that a hole sponsored for \$25,000.00 was played according to the rules.

When asked why he volunteered his time to ensure the success of the tournament. Whittaker replied "I know how hard it is for First Nations people to get the support they need in order to complete post-secondary education. I myself have been faced with adversity from time to time trying to complete my computer sciences degree."



“I know how hard it is for First Nations people to get the support they need in order to complete post-secondary education. I myself have been faced with adversity from time to time trying to complete my computer sciences degree.”



The Golf Classic had many fierce competitions taking place all over the course. The putting contest had many return visitors. All participants were vying for an Odyssey Hot White Steel putter. The winner, Herman Styres, showed all participants that age is not a factor when it comes to winning at age 81.

Several more golfers received prizes for the Closest to the Pin and Longest Drive contests. Winners of the Closest to the Pin contest included: Ray McCleod (Hole #11) who won an Odyssey White Steel Putter, Chuck Pawis (Hole #14) who won a George Foreman Grill, Will Toulouse (Men's Hole #16) who won a Callaway Big Bertha 454 Driver, and Chasity Toulouse (Women's Hole

#16) who won a Taylor Made Hybrid (Women's). Winners of the Longest Drive contest included: Ron Root (Hole #10) who won a Taylor Made Hybrid (Men's) and Becky Toulouse (Hole #8) who won a Taylor Made Hybrid (Women's).

There was also a Prize Table as well as Door Prizes so that no one felt left out. By the end of the day, every single golfer left with a beaming smile while carrying all of the prizes they'd won or received.

After the sun was starting to set on the lush Settlers Ghost Golf Course, the participants were treated to a full course meal, courtesy of Hydro One. After a brief speech from Bob Howsam, who thanked everyone for

participating, the MC Tom Northardt moved along to the presentation of the OFNTSC Cup.

The winner of the 2008 OFNTSC Student Classic was the team of "Greens at Renton". Greens at Renton were made up by Rocki Smith, Mark Styres, Bill Yu and Mike Bishop.

The OFNTSC would like to congratulate all those who came out and participated in the Student Classic.

The next chance to win the OFNTSC Student Classic will take place in the City of Sault Ste. Marie. The cup will be played for at the prestigious Crimson Ridge Golf Course on August 27, 2009 at 1pm.

Proud Sponsors:





Water and Wastewater

Adequate clean water is of concern for all communities. More importantly the need for clean water is a concern for most First Nations in Ontario. The Water and Wastewater program of the OFNTSC has worked hard over the past year to ensure First Nations across Ontario are getting the cleanest water they can. Some issues of note that has faced the Water program over the past year are the proposed legislative framework for First Nation National Water/Wastewater Legislation, National Engineering Assessment, Plant Classification, review of Ontario regulations and guidelines for water systems and boil water advisories. Amongst the technical advisory services that the OFNTSC provides, the OFNTSC also sits on committees that shape Water/Wastewater standards and policy for First Nations in Ontario. Among those committees are the Assembly of First Nations Water Technicians Committee, Ministry of the Environment Advisory Council on Drinking Water Quality and Testing Standards.

When the OFNTSC was conceptualized in 1995 there was a concern already amongst First Nations to have clean, potable water and training of plant operators. The OFNTSC, then and now still has services related directly to water quality assurance and training of plant operators. Over the years the Water and Wastewater Program has evolved into a multi faceted advisory services; including preparation of Terms of References; providing evaluation of projects, pre-engineering design, project design and implementation. The water and wastewater needs of First Nations are vital to the overall health and safety of people across the territories of Ontario.

The Walkerton tragedy related to contaminated water has, since 2001, focused attention on reliable water treatment and distribution based on the principles of multiple-barrier approach of ensuring clean water from source to tap. The Ontario government held inquiries and passed revised legislation to deal

with this tragedy. Throughout the past year the OFNTSC has been actively involved with engagement sessions being held to discuss the Federal Governments proposed regulatory framework on water/wastewater legislation. The purpose of the framework is to ensure the provision of safe drinking water for First Nations across Canada. The OFNTSC took part in some of the engagement sessions held in Thunder Bay and Toronto. While more engagement and consultations needs to be achieved with First Nations in regards to this framework, it is the opinion of the OFNTSC that the legislative framework represents a clear opportunity to entrench the right of clean water for First Nations in Canada. This would ensure that standards are respected by all involved in supplying clean water to First Nations communities in Canada. Engagement sessions have now been completed and a review is now underway of the framework. However it should be noted that most First Nations would have preferred a more formal timely consultations

process based on the Federal national policy rather a policy based on provincial legislation. Make sure to check www.ofntsc.org and INAC web site, to stay updated on the progression of this framework.

Boil Water Advisories (BWA) are always of concern to communities. Whereas, it must be noted BWA indicate that there is due diligence in making sure that the water being provided is safe and also a problem has occurred at the water treatment plant and action is required. The Federal Government throughout the past year has started to prepare for a National Engineering Assessment of First Nation Water treatment facilities plus a portion of private water and wastewater systems. The assessment will focus on the type and size of the plant, its service area, operational status and determine if upgrading is required. Presently across Ontario there are a variety of water treatment facilities ranging from membrane treatment (which services up to 1000 people) to slow sand gravity filter based treatment systems(100 people). A consulting firm named Neegan Burnside has been awarded the contract.

The OFNTSC Water and Wastewater Program participate in many First Nations water projects. While it is not possible to list all of the current projects underway here, the Water program hopes that this will highlight some of the work carried out. The projects listed below are a few that the OFNTSC Water Program has participated in, over the past year.

[Hiawatha First Nation](#) - ground water supply study

[Attawapiskat](#) - water supply study and water treatment

[Red Rock](#) – attended project team meetings and provided advice to the First Nation and project team

[New Credit](#) – provided advisory service on the design and construction of new water pipeline

[Curve Lake](#) – provided advisory service on water treatment pilot plant and bench testing of the processes

[Wasauksing](#) – provided advisory service on the design of new water treatment plant and assisted in evaluation of project management proposals

[Pikwakanagan](#) – provided advisory service regarding ground water supply system in new acquired park land

[Akwesasne](#) – provided advisory service in wastewater study

[Pic Mobert](#) – provided advice regarding water supply system including letter of support to INAC

It has been a busy year for water and wastewater once again. The Water Program will continue to make an effort of informing our First Nations about issues of concern through the OFNTSC website and discussion board. The Water Program looks forward to serving our First Nations in the coming year, so that we may all have clean water.





Circuit Rider Training Program: CRTP: Water and Wastewater

“In closing, CRTP Water and Wastewater has made significant progress in ensuring First Nations in Ontario have clean water.”

The Circuit Rider Training Program (CRTP) has been of great use to First Nations in Ontario. Throughout the past year the Circuit Rider training program has expanded to include a dozen trainers and 68 First Nations throughout Ontario. CRTP earlier this year rolled out confined space training in Dryden to ensure operators who may be required to repair equipment in confined space would have the training to do so. By preparing these individuals the OFNTSC's CRTP hopes to minimize the time equipment is broken and impact of untreated water on the community. As part of the delivery mechanism for CRTP, an advocacy/communications component has been added. In order to meet this new challenge, CRTP over the past year has developed and implemented communications tools to inform First Nations water and wastewater treatment plant treatment operators of the benefits of CRTP, safety tips, best practices, maintenance procedures, troubleshooting and promotion of successful operators through CRTP.

The CRTP was first developed in Saskatchewan over 20 years ago. The idea behind CRTP was to give First Nations water and wastewater treatment plant operators the training necessary to operate and maintain community water treatment facilities. Today true to its original design, CRTP addresses serious health and safety issues related to water and wastewater in Ontario First Nation communities. It reduces re-capitalization costs, service interruptions and school and medical station closures. It also improves overall social conditions through better management of water and wastewater facilities. It is a site-based, one-on-one and hands-on program tailored to the needs and aptitude of each trainee.

In order to consistently keep CRTP trainers updated along with water and wastewater treatment plant operators, the CRTP has developed manuals in relation to best practices. To date 25 manuals have been updated/developed by



Alfred College, University of Guelph in the effort to keep First Nations treatment operators qualified to run their respective plants. The Manuals are then reviewed and approved for Continuing Education Units (CEUs) by the Ontario Water and Wastewater Certification Office (OWWCO) to evaluate operator knowledge of plant systems. Current Modules include but are not limited to chemicals and tests, basic plant control, plant operation, budget preparation, mathematics, plan reading, sewage collection systems and water treatment. Currently the OFNTSC is the only Corporation in Ontario, to be allowed by the OWWCO to provide continuing education units on the CRTP to First Nation plant operators in Ontario.

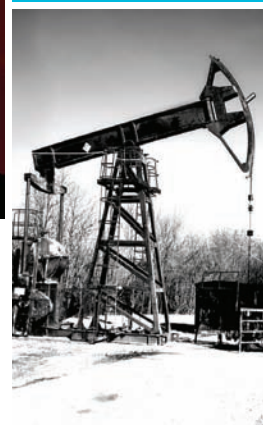
CRTP is provided funding through the support of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). During this past year CRTP submitted a proposal to INAC for the continuation of the CRTP for First Nations in Ontario. Due to the unparalleled success that the CRTP has achieved for Ontario First Nations, INAC has renewed the funding agreement to support CRTP. Without this support the CRTP would not be possible.

As part of the service delivery for CRTP and the OFNTSC the task to keep the communities we serve informed is a task not taken lightly. Currently CRTP information can be found on the OFNTSC website as well as the discussion board. CRTP

also provides a staff listing under the Contacts section on the OFNTSC website. CRTP also produced a pamphlet during the year that was distributed to First Nations and Tribal Councils across Ontario. The pamphlet contained information in regards to why the CRTP exists in Ontario. The pamphlet also included a section that described the goals, initiatives and services that CRTP provides. Other information also included in the pamphlet was modules offered for continuing education units and a current list of CRTP Trainer contacts for the province. The motto for the pamphlet was “Safe Water for Everyone”.

CRTP Trainers are in very high demand across the province. Their expertise and knowledge are constantly sought by those who have the resources to provide for qualified professionals. Therefore CRTP Trainers are consistently in high demand across Ontario. Typically a CRTP Trainer covers off six to eight First Nations in a region, however when CRTP loses a trainer other CRTP Trainers cover off the affected region. It is this type of cooperation amongst the Trainers that makes the CRTP program viable.

In closing CRTP Water and Wastewater has made significant progress in ensuring First Nations in Ontario have clean water. CRTP will continue to work towards ensuring that there is safe water for everyone.



Circuit Rider Training Program: CRTP: Fuel Systems Management



Like the CRTP Water Program, CRTP Fuel is designed to get training into the hands of First Nations people in Ontario who handle fuel. The past year for CRTP Fuel has been a busy one with training occurring across the province for fuel handlers. Changes in provincial regulations to home heating tanks over the past year have required the updating of fuel handling technician's qualifications. With northern Ontario opening up for natural resources exploration, the need to have safe fuel storage tanks and spill containment training has increased dramatically. Fuel spills present a great danger to communities and the environment across Ontario. By ensuring that First Nations fuel handlers are up to date with required training and certification, CRTP Fuel aims to minimize the impact on First Nations communities when dealing with fuel.

The CRTP had its beginnings over 20 years ago in Saskatchewan as a model to maintain a revolving training cycle for First Nations

water treatment operators. With the success achieved while training water treatment operators and a growing need to train fuel handlers it was a natural progression that CRTP incorporate training for fuel handlers. CRTP Fuel first launched its training program in 1997. Since its inception in 1997, CRTP Fuel has become an increasingly high demand training program. CRTP aims to achieve a better understanding of legislative requirements, health and safety issues, proper fuel handling and management techniques.

CRTP Fuel hosted Liquid Fuel Handling Code workshops for Petroleum Mechanics and Petroleum Mechanic Helpers. One of the Liquid Fuel Handling Code workshops offered during the past year was held in Thunder Bay. The workshop was well attended and had participants from Shibogama Technical Services, Windigo First Nations Council, Pwi-Di-Goo-Zing, Anishinabek of Kabaspikotawangag Resource Council and Keewaywin,

Pays Plat, Big Grassy, Stanjikoming, Pikangikum, Mishkeegogamang, Rainy River, North Caribou and Wapekeka First Nations. A total of 17 participants attended both days of the workshop. In addition to the liquid fuel handling code, the training provided a review of the Oil Code Book section (B-139) and Environment Canada presented on new regulations for Storage Tank Systems for Petroleum Products and Allied Petroleum Products.

In 2008 Environment Canada, repealed the “Registration of Storage Tank Systems for Petroleum Products and Allied Petroleum Products” on Federal Lands and Aboriginal Lands Regulations. The main objective of these new regulations will be to prevent soil and groundwater contamination

from storage tank systems located on federal and aboriginal lands. The new regulations also enhance the level of environmental protection regarding federal petroleum products and allied petroleum products storage tank systems and are more in line with regulations that currently exist in most provincial and territorial jurisdictions. The CRTP Fuel Program along with the Environment Program has been circulating information in regards to the new regulations. Be sure to check www.ofntsc.org for the most current information on these new regulations.

There is a constant demand to have trained individuals across Ontario First Nations in fuel handling. With that demand there is also a need for more fuel trainers. In the next few months CRTP Fuel will look

at how to increase capacity for fuel trainers while maintaining the current training objectives. As part of the OFNTSC service delivery, CRTP Fuel will be increasing the amount of information available for storage tank regulations, training initiatives, health and safety issues, spill remediation and proper fuel handling techniques.

The future of CRTP Fuel is very bright. CRTP Fuel will continue to maintain the goal of informing First Nation fuel handlers of proper practices. By ensuring fuel handlers are well trained and prepared, CRTP Fuel hopes that those who respond to emergency situations will be able to minimize the environmental impact.

“Since its inception in 1997, CRTP Fuel has become an increasingly high demand training program. CRTP aims to achieve a better understanding of legislative requirements, health and safety issues, proper fuel handling and management techniques.”



Environment

The Environment Program of the OFNTSC has undergone significant changes over the past year.

Specifically the OFNTSC acquired two new environmental Scientists. Stephanie Allen based out of Toronto, joined the OFNTSC in August of 2008. And Thunder Bay welcomed Deneen Brigham. Both Allen and Brigham have a combined 20 years of experience working with First Nations on environmental issues. Of the most concern to First Nations in the past year were issues in solid waste management, source water protection/water quality, energy efficiency, community sustainability, contaminated site assessment and remediation, spill prevention and contingency planning, fuel storage tank systems, environmental regulations and funding opportunities for First Nations across Ontario.

In 1998 with an increased demand from First Nations for technical

advice, the OFNTSC took steps to create a program that would deal with the environmental impacts of projects and legislation that First Nations in Ontario were dealing with. Today the Environment program works side by side with nearly every single program within the OFNTSC.

The Environment Program has made significant progress in the past year by making First Nations more informed of options available to them for solid waste management.

In the past months the Environment Program partnered with the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) to pilot a solid waste management course. The course was targeted to landfill operators and those responsible for managing landfill operations in Ontario First Nations. The focus of the training was on natural attenuation landfills, best management practices, and strategies that are realistic given the extremely limited operations and

maintenance budgets for most First Nations solid waste management programs. The response to this training was overwhelming, over 50 people registered for the course. With the success of this training, the OFNTSC will be looking to hold another course in the future, for our communities in the north.

Community sustainability is an issue of utmost concern to First Nations in Ontario. It is essential for First Nations to have a plan in terms of community development.

The Environment Program over the past year has been working towards ensuring that First Nations have the resources and information to make informed decisions when locating infrastructure, housing and water treatment plants in their communities.

Contaminated site assessment and remediation, spill prevention and contingency planning; and fuel



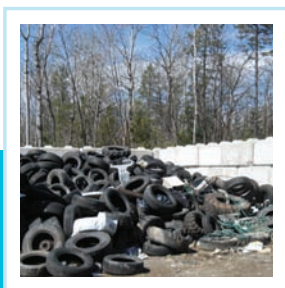
“The Environmental Staff has also provided technical support and advice to several clients on environmental site assessment procedures and the implementation of clean-up measures for either existing contaminated site and remediation projects or as a result of a fuel spill.”

storage tank systems were other areas where the Environmental Staff focused their attention throughout the past year in an effort to minimize potential impacts to the environment while providing training opportunities and increasing awareness among First Nations. This was accomplished by hosting a series of workshops, which provided certified Petroleum Mechanics (PMs) with updated training on the Liquid Fuels Handling Code (LFHC). Knowledge of the updated LFHC is required by Petroleum Mechanics, to maintain their licenses and to mitigate safety and environmental risks arising from improperly installed or maintained equipment.

Workshops also covered material intended to increase awareness of fuel related issues surrounding home heating tanks, by providing a review of the Oil Code Book and relevant information associated with the Oil Burner Technician Certification Program. In addition to the above, OFNTSC arranged for Environment Canada to present on the new “Storage Tank Systems

for Petroleum Products and Allied Petroleum Products Regulations” along with spill contingency planning and how these regulations may impact on fuel delivery in the future. The Environmental Staff has also provided technical support and advice to several clients on environmental site assessment procedures and the implementation of clean-up measures for either existing contaminated site and remediation projects or as a result of a fuel spill.

It has been a year of growth and change for the Environment Program. The OFNTSC website has been an active tool for the Environment Program. The Environment Program will continue to strive for allowing access to important information through www.ofntsc.org and the discussion forum. With new people and resources the Environment Program looks forward to continue serving our First Nations and Tribal Councils over the next year and making sure our communities are sustainable while reducing our environmental impact.





Fire and Safety



Fire and Safety is of vital importance to all First Nations in Ontario. Over the past year, Fire and Safety has strived continuously to ensure First Nation Fire Departments are adequately equipped with up to date fire fighting technology. Fire and Safety also worked in areas of fire loss prevention, fire related casualties, emergency service training and fire inspection deficiencies. All of these areas added to the value of making Ontario First Nation's safer and more informed of fire prevention.

At the turn of the calendar year, Fire and Safety completed specification review and assisted Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) in the purchase of six new fire trucks for Fort Albany, Dokis, Thessalon, Moose Deer Point, Mishkeegogamang, and Moose Cree First Nation. These fire trucks were delivered to the above First Nations in March of 2009.

The Fire and Safety program has been in existence since 1995 with the OFNTSC. The program's original focus was to ensure Ontario First

Nations technical services were up to date with fire prevention services, training and maintenance of First Nation fire protection equipment. Over the past 14 years the Fire and Safety program has evolved into providing First Nations in Ontario with emergency service training, fire inspection deficiencies and the development of a First Nations Fire needs/statistics database.

From the database described above the OFNTSC strives to keep our communities and people informed of Fire loss statistics. For the calendar year of 2008, it was reported that an unthinkable 13 deaths occurred in First Nations alone across Ontario. In addition to the fatalities, 23 people were also injured from fire related causes. The OFNTSC will continue to work vigorously to ensure that our communities and people are informed and practice Fire and Safety protection at all times.

OFNTSC also in partnership with INAC, received \$1.9 million to administer the bulk purchase of fire equipment for all First Nations in Ontario. The equipment consisted of fire fighter needs and fire fighter

Over the past 14 years the Fire and Safety program has evolved into providing First Nations in Ontario with emergency service training, fire inspection deficiencies and the development of a First Nations Fire needs/statistics database.

personnel safety gear. The OFNTSC ensured that all First Nations received equipment of some capacity (i.e. portable fire extinguishers, smoke alarms and CO detectors). The purchase included 14,151 pieces of equipment. The OFNTSC fire safety area, combined with the assistance of INAC's funding, received a total amount of almost \$3 million dollars for First Nations this year.

As part of creating capacity for First Nations in Ontario, the OFNTSC engages youth by promoting awareness in fire prevention and fire emergencies. This year, as years in the past the OFNTSC in cooperation

with the Ontario Native Fire Fighters Society (ONFFS) jointly conducted the Annual Fire Protection/Fire Prevention Poster Contest. The contest consisted of three categories for three separate age groups: Category One (Kindergarten to Grade 2), Category Two (Grade 3 to Grade 6) and Category three (Grade 7 and up). OFNTSC received 61 submissions from eight schools.

The first place winners for each category are as follows:

- Category One: Shauntay Longboat of Six Nations
- Category Two: Dallas Silversmith of Six Nations
- Category Three: Margaret Ward of Pic Mobert

Winning posters in each category were forwarded to the Aboriginal Fire Fighters Association of Canada (AFAC) to participate in the National Competition. Judging for the National Poster Contest took place in March 2009. The OFNTSC was advised two students from Ontario received first place status. The OFNTSC would like to thank all the students who participated in the contest and send congratulations to our winners who represented Ontario in the national competition.

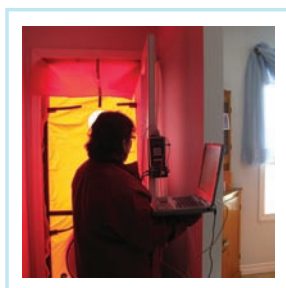
Fire and Safety has continuously worked with the ONFFS over the past few years to ensure First Nations have access to resources and training. Over the past year in conjunction with the ONFFS, OFNTSC had administered a number of training activities. One of those training activities was the Fire Risk Management Session. The training was aimed at Fire Chiefs, administrators, Fire fighters and anyone who deals with Fire Fighting administration. The purpose of the training was to ensure that individuals could conduct and review fire risk assessments, fire preventive and protective measures within most workplaces.

Fire and Safety will continue to build on the many achievements over the next fiscal year. Of special interest this year is that the ONFFS has partnered with the OFNTSC for the 14th Annual Conference and Tradeshow. The ONFFS will be offering confined space training and Fire Fighter survival training over the 3 days during the conference. It is partnerships such as the one that OFNTSC enjoys with the ONFFS that Ontario First Nations will benefit from.





Housing



Housing remains at the forefront of issues that concern most First Nations in Ontario. The need to have affordable/sustainable housing and funding consistently outweighs what is available to First Nations in Ontario. At the start of this year the Housing program undertook a training needs assessment to determine the state of trained and certified housing personnel in Ontario. From the needs assessment a training schedule was developed with a focus on R-2000, Air-tightness Tester/Inspector training and Building Code courses. Housing continued its role on the Ontario First Nations Steering Committee on Housing (OFNSCH) by providing regular snapshots of housing concerns for First Nations across Ontario to the Political Confederacy of the Chiefs of Ontario. Housing also participated in the 6th Annual Northern Housing Conference which saw First Nations from across northern Ontario come together to produce solutions to housing issues faced by First Nations in the North.

The Housing Program initially began as a service for housing inspections to ensure that housing being built in First Nations across Ontario met the highest building standards possible. The Housing Program has evolved over the past few years to ensure that Ontario First Nations receive quality service with requirements to support community program development and the training and certification of building officials.

The Ontario First Nations Steering Committee on Housing addressed many critical issues facing First Nations in Ontario throughout the past year. One of the most critical was to identify the funding level required to address the housing shortage in Ontario for First Nations. Through the year the OFNTSC worked tirelessly with its partners to address this issue. Through the dedication of the Steering Committee members a strategic plan has been developed and will be presented to the Chiefs in Assembly at the upcoming Annual Chiefs of Ontario Conference.



“Housing continued its role on the Ontario First Nations Steering Committee on Housing (OFNSCH) by providing regular snapshots of housing concerns for First Nations across Ontario to the Political Confederacy of the Chiefs of Ontario.”



The needs assessment completed at the start of this calendar year shed some light on where First Nations in Ontario could use some additional training and gaps that needed to be filled. From the assessment it was found that more R-2000 and EnerGuide certified inspectors were needed across Ontario. Goals set forth were to certify eight new Energy Advisors, the integration of EnerGuide training in the current training schedule and NRCan licensing. Housing also developed a revised training schedule to meet the current training needs of inspectors across the province.

to take an administrative role in the development of a professional association for Native Inspectors across Ontario. The idea behind the professional association is to create a single comprehensive resource for First Nations Inspectors for mentorship, certification/training and best practices. The OFNTSC will also use this opportunity to create a housing database of certified/licensed inspectors, R-2000 homes, EnerGuide homes and Energy Star for new homes.



Housing in First Nations in Ontario still has many more hurdles to overcome. Housing in Ontario looks to grow potential resources to address the chronic issues of overcrowding and energy efficiency.

In the coming year the OFNTSC will partner with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)





Infrastructure

The past year saw Infrastructure Specialists continue to provide a vital role in Unaffiliated First Nations by providing key services in Housing, support in the delivery of the Operations and Maintenance program, Minor Capital, Training and other services deemed necessary for First Nations communities to foster technical self-reliance.

The Infrastructure Program was started in 1995 at the inception of the OFNTSC and has been providing exceptional service since. After First Nations in Ontario successfully negotiated an agreement with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) to assume control of technical and advisory services in 1994, the OFNSTC and the Services Committee individually recognized the need to re-examine how services were being delivered to Unaffiliated First Nations in Ontario and in response, the Infrastructure Program was born.

During the past year, the Infrastructure Program has continued to add to its list of accomplishments. Infrastructure Specialists provided a range of Housing Services including Part 9 residential inspections in an effort to ensure that homes met or exceeded National and Ontario First Nations Building Codes, advisory services on housing policies and programs development within the federal and provincial governments, delivery of NRCan's programs including the R-2000, EnerGuide for new houses and the EnergyStar programs and finally CMHC inspection services for various communities.





Infrastructure also performed an advisory role to the Operations and Maintenance Budgets, performed updates to the Capital Asset Management Systems (CAMS), Community Management Plans and the Asset Condition Reporting System (ACRS). INAC requires annual reports on asset bases within First Nations communities which cover the Capital Asset Inventory System (CAIS), School Facilities, Housing and Infrastructure, Municipal Type Agreements (MTAs) and Maintenance Projects identified by the ACRS report.

The Minor Capital budget was structured to address many of the community's Housing and Infrastructure needs. The program also played an advisory role in preparing five year Minor Capital Plans, preparing Capital Funding submissions and reporting requirements.

The Infrastructure Specialist Program provided training advisory services to Unaffiliated First Nations to ensure that these communities were kept up to date on professional standards in various technical areas. The program also provided advisory services in the areas of Environmental Services and Fire Safety and Protection.

Operations and Maintenance issues are becoming a large concern with INAC reviewing the ACRS and reducing First Nations funding because of the review process. It is clear that Infrastructure Specialists will have some hurdles to overcome and new challenges to face.

By ensuring that Unaffiliated First Nations continue to receive technical services and advisory from the Infrastructure Program, the OFNTSC continues to provide First Nations with the tools and knowledge to attain sustainability and a better way of life.





Operations and Maintenance

Operations and Maintenance (O & M) funding is of vital importance to First Nations. Over the past year with an economic downturn, O & M has worked continuously to improve First Nations operations. The O & M program has worked on issues concerning the Integrated Capital Management System (ICMS), Maintenance Management System (MMS), First Nation O & M cost model for Water and Wastewater treatment, Public Sector Accounting Board Section 3150 (PSAB) and First Nation O & M cost model for fire protection.

The O & M program has been a part of the OFNTSC since its inception in 1995 with the intent to provide support to First Nations and Tribal Councils with processes, procedures and policies that effectively assist First Nations O&M programs. Throughout the past 14 years O & M has evolved to meet enhanced reporting mechanisms, tracking

of maintenance and costing requirements and streamlining the various reporting requirements issues by INAC.

An issue on the minds of First Nations and Tribal Councils over the past year has been the PSAB Section 3150 requirements. PSAB Section 3150 refers to the new and additional demands that require First Nations to report on Tangible Capital Assets to INAC. PSAB represents a great concern to First Nations for the reason that First Nations must now comply with another level of reporting on capital assets. O & M has worked diligently on this issue to inform our Provincial Territorial Organizations, Tribal Councils and First Nations of what now is required for annual reporting. This is done by assisting First Nations and Tribal Councils on creation of policies templates, formulas for capturing depreciation values and supporting the changing environment to Tangible

“Cost engineering is an essential part of the planning, design, construction and operation & maintenance of a project, and is aimed at extracting the best possible value for money from all activities.”



Capital Assets introduced by PSAB Section 3150 new requirements. To ensure you are informed of changes check www.ofntsc.org regularly for updates on PSAB requirements.

The Asset Condition Reporting System (ACRS) developed by INAC was created in response to the Treasury Board of Canada request, for a better method of determining asset recapitalization requirements. Over the past year INAC has conducted internal reviews of ACRS and recently released their ACRS call package that includes numerous revisions to asset definitions. If accepted the revisions for First Nations may have significant negative impacts of future O & M funding levels. The O & M Program will continue to monitor and review the new definitions with INAC, and will voice concerns for our First Nations and Tribal Councils to ensure the impact of new inspection process is minimal. The O & M program will also continue to advocate consultation with First Nations and Tribal Councils in Ontario in regards to future amendments to the ACRS program.

Cost engineering is an essential part of the planning, design, construction and operation & maintenance of a project, and is aimed at extracting

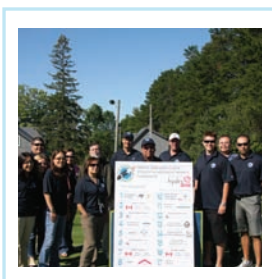
the best possible value for money from all activities. INAC's Cost Reference Manual (CRM) which was first developed in the mid 1980's was meant to provide guidance to First Nations for capital construction and operation & maintenance. This year O & M will be partnering with the Ogemawahj Tribal Council in a pilot project to conduct a detailed review of INAC's CRM O & M unit costs. The pilot project will focus upon INAC's funding formula, against current market values using industry best practices and will further compare this unit cost to First Nations actual O & M costs.

O & M has become even more vital to the well being of First Nations since the beginning of the economic downturn. However over the next year O & M will be focusing on PSAB section 3150, First Nations Reporting Guide, ACRS, CRM, and investigate the requirements to provide First Nations with a comprehensive Infrastructure Asset Management System.

By ensuring that First Nations and Tribal Councils have up to date information on these O & M principles, the OFNTSC strives to achieve our mission of First Nations self-reliance.

Communications

“Youth are the key to sustaining our technical knowledge inside our communities.”



The Communications branch of the Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation has seen major growth over the past year. With a newly revised and implemented Communications Strategy the OFNTSC seeks to continually improve the visibility of the communities and people we serve. A major part of this strategy has been to make www.ofntsc.org the leading source of First Nations technical information. Much progress has been made since the re-launch of the website last year. By making our success visible, the OFNTSC looks to creating a positive self-identified image of First Nations people who are concerned about the environment, clean water, affordable housing and being safe in their communities. The OFNTSC continually encourages our member communities and Tribal Councils to participate in corporate events.

Over the past year the OFNTSC has seen many of its members involved with the Student Classic, Student Achievement Awards, 13th Annual OFNTSC Conference and Tradeshow, Southern/Unaffiliated Large First

Nation and Tribal Council meeting and Northern Unaffiliated First Nations and Tribal Council Meetings to name a few.

A communications unit has been present since the inception of the OFNTSC over 14 years ago. One of the most common issues that OFNTSC Communications has faced is getting our information back to the communities, Tribal Councils and Provincial Territorial Organizations that we serve. Thus the biggest hurdle the OFNTSC has to overcome is making our communities aware of what the OFNTSC does and why it exists. The OFNTSC was created in 1995, by the Chiefs of Ontario, to provide professional technical advisory services to all First nations in Ontario and to foster technological self-reliance for our people.

Over the past year Communications has done much to be proud of. At the beginning of the 2008-2009 year Communications prepared and distributed brochures for the CRTP: [Water program](#). The brochures were to encourage and inform our



communities of the benefits of CRTP and continuing education goals needed to meet standards set for best practices. Communications also developed a calendar for CRTP: Water, that highlighted water treatment operators, treatment facilities, safety facts and tips, what to do in emergency situations and provide a calendar of upcoming important dates.

With the re-launch of www.ofntsc.org last year the OFNTSC aimed to facilitate information and experience sharing amongst First Nations in Ontario. www.ofntsc.org now hosts sections about us, a calendar of upcoming functions, Staff/office/Board Listings by region and program, an interactive discussion forum and individual program information. The major addition to the OFNTSC website in the past year has been the Forum. The forum was specifically added in February 2009 to enhance the facilitation of information sharing. The forum allows members of communities,

Tribal councils, Provincial Territorial Organizations and corporate sector partners to join and post their thoughts/concerns on the OFNTSC's program areas. As well the Forum also allows for posting of jobs, special events, and general comments and suggestions. The OFNTSC looks at the forum as another way to connect to our communities and the OFNTSC and corporate sector partners so that the OFNTSC may improve our level of service. The discussion forum will be a growing part of the OFNTSC website in the mission of gaining technological self-reliance for First Nations in Ontario. Communications encourages you to become an active member in this mission of self-reliance. You can view the forum anytime at www.ofntsc.org/forum/. We hope to see you there soon.

Youth are the key to sustaining our technical knowledge inside our communities. Once again OFNTSC Communications will be coordinating the Student Achievement Awards. The Student Achievement Awards

were brought about to encourage First Nations youth in careers of science and technology. Last year due to a generous donation from the Dreamcatcher Fund, the OFNTSC was able to offer six student awards. The winners can be found on the OFNTSC website and will be showcased in material at the 14th Annual Student Classic in Sault Ste. Marie, August 27 at 1pm. Come out and support our youth.

In closing it has been a year of growth for OFNTSC Communications amid economic uncertainty. Communications will continue to provide our communities with solutions to generating and exchanging ideas, so that First Nations in Ontario will continue to grow. Communications will continue seeking out our success stories from across Ontario to provide communities with experiences of overcoming educational and social barriers to achieve success in our communities.

Miigwetch





Annual Conference 2008-2009

Niagara Falls – The sun was beaming through the large bay windows at the front of the Sheraton Hotel onto the delegates who had assembled for the 13th Annual Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC) Conference and Tradeshow.

This was the 13th time that Ontario First Nations and Tribal councils had come together to share information and experiences on making their communities safe, healthy and clean. The conference kicked off with a prayer from elder Hubert Skye, Cayuga from Six Nations. An honour

song was also performed by Frank McNaughton from Six Nations. Moments after that OFNTSC Executive Director, Bob Howsam invited Chief William Montour of the Six Nations Grand River Territory to open the conference and welcome the OFNTSC and its delegates into their territory.

Chief Montour was joined by addresses from OFNTSC President Mathew Hoppe, Aboriginal Water and Wastewater Association of Ontario Chairperson, Kelvin Jamieson and Regional Chief Angus Toulouse, Chiefs of Ontario.

The conference's aim was to bring together public/private sector companies along with Federal and Provincial partners to improve First Nations technical self-reliance. The OFNTSC strives towards this goal by holding events throughout the year such as the Annual Conference.

Over the next three days delegates were presented with material from infrastructure, housing, operations and maintenance, fire and safety, water and wastewater quality, communications and the environment.





“This was the 13th time that Ontario First Nations and Tribal councils had come together to share information and experiences on making their communities safe, healthy and clean.”



One of the OFNTSC’s biggest supporters, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, showcased many of their initiatives over the course of the conference. One of the most interesting breakout sessions was the “Running a Successful Housing Operation”. The presentation was geared specifically to assist First Nation Housing Managers run a successful housing portfolio. CMHC provided many of their most senior advisors to discuss best practice principles and success stories from First Nations across Ontario.

and implementation of the draft protocol for Wastewater Treatment & Disposal in First Nations communities, “Well Aware and Green Communities” outlined the research, design and implementation of a successful community-based social marketing program using Well Aware as an example, “Expanding Your Housing Options” which described how the First Nations Market Housing Fund works and how this new housing option could benefit First Nations communities and “First Nations Comprehensive Community Planning” provided an introduction to community sustainability planning going over different First Nations models and steps in a typical planning process for those communities. These were just a few of the many presentations that were given at the conference aimed at providing First Nations individuals and groups with the knowledge and tools to better their communities and way of life.



Some of the other presentations included: “Effective Communications” which explained detailed principles on how to overcome perception barriers when communicating complex scientific principles within a community, “Protocol for Treatment and Disposal of Wastewater in First Nations Communities” which covered the development, highlights

Proud Sponsors:



“Participants removed their hats and listened to the sound of the drum.”

Day two of the conference introduced delegates to the OFNTSC Tradeshow. The tradeshow floor became a hive of activity once doors opened to the delegates. The Tradeshow showcased businesses from across Canada that work with First Nations. Delegates were treated to Garmin GPS door prizes and other prizes donated by tradeshow participants. Tom Northardt, OFNTSC Infrastructure Specialist, was the Tradeshow Chair. Northardt said, “It’s a great opportunity for not only businesses but also for First Nations to come and see what is being offered out there in terms of products for their communities.”

The Third day saw the close of the 13th Annual Conference. The morning was filled with presentations from the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), Ministry of the Environment, Environment Canada and Indian and Northern Affairs

Canada. The conference was to close with a speech from the AFN National Chief Phil Fontaine. Unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances the National Chief was unable attend the closing.

The closing brought together all of the presenters and participants for one last time. Once again the OFNTSC invited Elder Hubert Skye and Frank McNaughton to close out the conference. Participants removed their hats and listened to the sound of the drum. When the song was over, Mathew Hoppe took over and warmed up the crowd with his anecdotes from Sioux Lookout. While OFNTSC Operations Manager, Brian Staats and Executive Director Bob Howsam, made draws for door prizes. In the end all participants of the 13th Annual Conference gathered for a picture to close off the conference and wish each other the best in their endeavours.

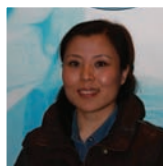


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