

2009-2010

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 16 Tribal Councils, 6 Large First Nations, 11 Southern Unaffiliated First Nations and 7 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

Anishinaabeg of Kabapikotawangag Resources

- Anishinaabeg of Naongashing
- Wauzhushk Onigum
- Big Grassy River
- Northwest Angle #33
- 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
- Obashkanndagaang
- Ochiichagwe' Babigo'Ining

Matawa First Nations Management Inc.

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

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

- Couchiching
- Lac La Croix
- Naicatchewenin
- Nidickousemenecaning
- Rainy River
- Seine River
- Stanjikoming

Unaffiliated Northern First Nations

- Fort William
- Michipocoten
- Mishkeegogamang
- Ojibways of Pic River
- Pays Plat
- Red Rock
- Ojibway Nation of Saugeen

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
- Mattagami
- 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)
- Aundek Omni Kaning
- Sheguiandah
- Shesheganing
- 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

Nokiwin Tribal Council

- Gull Bay
- Pic Mobert
- Biinkitiwabik Zaaging Anishinabek
- Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinabek
- Animbiiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinabek



Board of Directors 2009-2010



Wes Bova
President
Matawa First Nations Management



Kevin Debassige
Vice President
United Chiefs & Councils of Manitoulin



Jason Batise
Treasurer
Wabun Tribal Council



Scott Maracle
Secretary
Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte



Jay Benedict
Executive Committee Member
Mohawk Council of Akwesasne

Vacant
Executive Committee Member
Southern District Tribal Council Rep.



Jerry Lavalley
Executive Committee Member
Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation



David Gordon
Executive Committee Member
Independent First Nations Alliance



Tim Bannon
Executive Committee Member
Fort William First Nation



Brad Dokuchie
Bimose Tribal Council

Vacant
Southern First Nations Secretariat



Jackie Hall
Ogemawahj Tribal Council



Peter Campbell
Keewaytinook Okimakanak Tribal Council



David Hill
Six Nations of the Grand River Territory



Bill Assinewai
Wikwemikong Unceded First Nation



Joe C. Meekis
Sandy Lake First Nation



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



Ryan Small
Mushkegowuk Tribal Council



Randy Roy
Waabnoong Bemjiwang Association of First Nations



Eugene McPherson
Anishinabek of Kabaspikotawangag Resource Council



Roger Williams
Bkwejwang Territory



Chief Lyle Sayers
North Shore Tribal Council



Roger Rozon
Nokiwin Tribal Council Inc.



Keith Mason
Shibogama First Nations Council



Richard Habinski
Windigo First Nations Council





President's Message

I am pleased to present the 15th Annual Report of the Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC).

First Nations and Tribal Councils across the Province continue to play a critical role in delivering technical services to their respective communities. The investments that are made today in creating capacity will have a powerful and lasting impact on our communities for generations to come.

First Nations Chiefs and Councils are facing significant challenges as they strive to deliver these services to their communities. Nevertheless, many First Nations are taking proactive measures to implement techniques to deliver safe drinking water, maintaining community buildings, providing emergency services and practical solutions that will make community infrastructure sustainable.

This year's report marks the 15th anniversary of the creation of the OFNTSC. Since the humble beginnings in 1995, offering only a small handful of services to First Nations and Tribal Councils the OFNTSC has grown exponentially from its inception. Today the OFNTSC has become a model of self-determination for First Nations and will continue to do so for the future. The unbending goal of creating capacity amongst Tribal Councils and First Nations has improved the economic and social fabrics of our communities. While much has been accomplished, we have more to achieve on behalf of First Nations and Tribal Councils we serve.

Wes Bova, P.Eng.
President





Executive Director's Message

We are proud to present our Annual Report for 2009-2010. Our staff work hard to assist communities and 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.



Additional focus this year has been on capacity building and training. Building a strong First Nations public service has resulted in training opportunities in housing, environment, water and wastewater and fuel handling.

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 2010-2011 with optimism and an ongoing commitment to meet our mandate.

Bob Howsam
Executive Director





Technical Manager's Report

As we reflect on the work completed this past year, it is my pleasure to confirm the successful delivery of the Circuit Rider Training Program (CRTP) services to over 80 First Nations. In addition, the delivery of fuel handling and spill response training in southern First Nations was positively received and highlighted a regional need for fuel related training.

With the recent introduction of the proposed Water and Wastewater legislation, the Ontario First Nation Technical Services (OFNTSC) Engineering Services department worked meticulously to provide the Chiefs of Ontario and the Assembly of First Nations complete technical document reviews. It is our hope that our comments in these preliminary documents will support First Nation leadership and technical organizations and guide them through these legislative developments.

The Engineering Services Department continues to support First Nations with technical advisory services that range in preliminary planning for projects to complex initiatives. The engineering services department takes the time to diligently review and respond to each First Nation request.



Within our Fuel Management Program, we have completed the production of a new Fuel Handling Response video that will provide our First Nations with a training tool that focuses on emergency fuel spill response and highlights best practices for residential fuel tank installations.



With INAC's continued support of the enhanced Circuit Rider Training Program (CRTP), we have introduced new evaluation, communication (online calendar) tools and training courses that will support the training needs in our First Nations. The CRTP trainers take great pride in seeing and helping the First Nation operators obtain their training goals and, in turn support First Nation leadership in providing clean drinking water for their communities.

With the continued support from First Nations and Tribal Councils, we look forward to expanding our in-community training programs and playing a unique role in supporting infrastructure and capacity development in First Nations.

Mathew Hoppe
Technical Manager





Operations Manager's Report

This past year has once again been a very productive and busy year for the OFNTSC. Along with increased productivity in all program areas the OFNTSC's workload has also increased due to demand from Tribal Councils and First Nations. Once again in March 2010, the OFNTSC capped off the fiscal year with our federal partner Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) with a major acquisition of 14 fire trucks for Ontario First Nations as selected by INAC and a major bulk fire equipment purchase for all First Nations in Ontario.

The Housing Advisory Service has once again experienced a increased demand for our Unaffiliated First Nations inspection services with CEAP Projects being added to their exsisting workloads. Demand continues to show no sign of slowing within our client areas for our Infrastructure Specialists, training and Housing Advisory Services.

The OFNTSC has provided services for Tribal Councils and Large First Nations across Ontario. Cost recovery for services rendered has been undertaken and will be a priority in the coming months. As well the OFNTSC still has active members in the Steering Committee on Housing and will continue to be a resource for all other housing related matters.

The Operations Services of the OFNTSC include Environment, Fire Safety, Infrastructure Specialist, Housing Advisor, Drinking Water Safety Program and Operations & Maintenance (O & M). The O & M Services this past year have been at the forefront for First Nations issues in:

- PSAB - Public Sector Accounting Board - Section 3150 and
- Awaiting distribution and training for our First Nation clients on the newly created versions of the ICMS program.

Teamwork has also grown throughout both the Toronto and Thunder Bay service centres to improve our own working environments and I hope this is seen as all employees carry this into our client working environments as well. We remain committed for services to the clients and they will be the main drive of the OFNTSC.

In closing I would like to thank the Board of Directors and Executive Committee for their support, and for allowing me as Operations Manager to bring ideas to the Board of Directors. I would also like to recognize the entire OFNTSC Staff for their support and continued dedication to their jobs during this time.

Brian Staats

Operations Manager



Student Achievement Awards

The Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC) in partnership with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) are pleased to introduce the winners of the 14th Annual OFNTSC Student Achievement Awards. For 14 years the OFNTSC has encouraged First Nations students to achieve excellence in careers of Science and Technology. By doing so the OFNTSC aims to create capacity for First Nations. Thus each year the OFNTSC takes the opportunity to honour the accomplishments of First Nations students who have persevered in attaining a high level of education in the fields of Science and Technology.

The OFNTSC has cultivated a relationship of respect and understanding with 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 2009 Student Achievement Award Winners.



Michael Allison is pursuing a diploma in Environmental Technology from Durham College. Allison is a member of Chippewas of Rama First Nation. Allison believes the education he is attaining now would best be suited for working in a water and wastewater facility. "Water plant operators help ensure clean drinking water and a pollution free environment for communities. And that is of utmost importance."



Chris Lefebvre is currently enrolled in Geometrics at the University of Ottawa. Lefebvre comes from Mattagami First Nation. Whether volunteering time for First Nation organizations or researching the effects of climate change on First nations, Lefebvre realizes that being a positive role model for younger generations will benefit those who choose to pursue post secondary education. Lefebvre said "In the future I hope to return to my home of Mattagami First Nation and apply the skills that I have learned to the community that has given me so much."



William McCabe (CMHC Selection) is part of the Civil Engineering Technician program at Sault College. McCabe is a member of Batchewana First Nation. McCabe when not studying or participating in the family business is active in community programs amongst the First Nations that surround the Sault Ste. Marie area. McCabe hopes to apply his educational background to building quality homes for First nations in the future. McCabe says "My family and community have done a great deal for me throughout the years, providing me with the tools necessary to be successful and do what I love. And as a thank you I will use what I have learned and give back to my family and community."



Nancy Debassige (CMHC Selection) attends Canadore College for the Environmental Technology Protection and Compliance program. Debassige hails from M'Chigeeng First Nation. Debassige credits her mother with her strong roots to her First Nation. Debassige is active amongst the services offered at Canadore for First Nations people. Debassige also participated in the Great Canadian Shoreline Clean Up program near North Bay. Debassige wants to contribute by "working directly in First nations in water and wastewater treatment, as it is a huge issue today, it is very frustrating to hear about different isolated communities living in the horrible conditions without clean drinking water."

The OFNTSC on behalf of our President and Board of Directors would like to congratulate the winners of the 2009 OFNTSC Student Achievement Awards. We thank all those that applied for these prestigious awards. A special thanks goes out to CMHC for donating two awards for the fifth year, to promote First Nation educational attainment. Please join us in 2010 for the 15th Annual Student Classic in support of First Nations Students pursuing careers in Science and Technology.



Student Classic

The OFNTSC has a long and rich history of supporting First Nations students pursuing careers in the fields of science and technology. And the 14th OFNTSC Student Classic was no exception. The OFNTSC's supporters rose over \$4000.00 for First Nations students.



This year's Student Classic was held at the Thundering Waters Golf Club in Niagara Falls, ON. The Student Classic drew over a 100 golfers from across the province all vying for the prestigious OFNTSC Cup. The Student Classic saw First Nations, Tribal Councils, private sector companies and private/public corporations all come out to support this worthy cause.

Golfers of the day first tried their luck at the putting green. For \$5 individual players were given five tries to sink putts on the OFNTSC putting board. The winner took home half of the money raised from the contest while the other half went to the OFNTSC Student Achievement Awards.

The Student Classic had much to offer the golfers who participated. On-course competitions offered prizes for hole in one's, closest to the pin, longest drive and closest to the line. Prizes offered for the competition ranged from a brand new set of Callaway irons, \$25,000, a trip for two to Banff and a 42' plasma TV.

This year's Student Classic saw support from the Ontario Native Fire Fighters Society, Matawa First Nations Management, Darch Fire, AWWAO, Superior Safety, Shibogama Technical Services, CMHC, Watson Parojic Financial, Rochester Americans, CRC Communications Ltd., First Nations Market Housing Fund, Pwi-Di-Goo-Zing ne-Yaa-Zhing, Grand River Enterprises, Spence Print Solutions, Red Indian Gas and Variety, Wikwemikong First Nation, JFK Homes, Anachemia Science and Kewadin Casinos.

At the end of the day, the golfers were treated to a dinner at Thundering Waters. After a brief speech from Operations Manager, Brian Staats on why the OFNTSC holds a Student Classic every year and thanking everyone for their participation, the OFNTSC Cup was ready to be claimed. The team of Mark Styres, Dallas Anderson, Jeremy Beal and Sam Bunting claimed the Cup with a celebratory raising. The winners also claimed their first place prizes of Taylor Made/ Ping golf bags.

After the OFNTSC Cup presentation each golfer was treated to a prize table that offered plenty. Prize's ranged from wedges and putters to foot massagers and barbeques. 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.

All of the money raised from the events held throughout the day all contribute to the Student Achievement Awards. The OFNTSC Student Achievement Awards are designed to provide support to First Nations students pursuing post-secondary education in the fields of science and technology.

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 at Royal Niagara Golf Club, Aug. 26 at 1pm, located in downtown Niagara Falls.



Water and Wastewater

Potable water continues to be a significant concern for First Nations. The Water and Wastewater program of the OFNTSC continually contributes to the well being of communities by creating solutions to the obstacles First Nations face in delivering safe water. In addition to the technical advisory services that the OFNTSC provides, the OFNTSC also participates in drinking water panels, focus groups for water and wastewater legislation, to engineering of water and wastewater facilities, the OFNTSC has played a critical role in the development of this important infrastructure.

An area of key focus throughout this past year has been the National Engineering Assessment. The Assessment has focused on the size and type of water and wastewater treatment plants in First Nation communities, the area they service, and the operational status of the plants to determine if upgrading is required. In the past year of the Assessment, First Nations have had site visits from Neegan Burnside for the Assessment. OFNTSC CRTP trainers have played an important role in assisting the site visits. In the last half of the year some First Nations have received the draft reports that have been prepared by Neegan Burnside for factual review in order to ensure the information being submitted to the federal government is accurate. Community site visits for Ontario First Nations will be resuming shortly. It is expected that the information resulting from the Assessment will assist in identifying the capital costs to provide consistent and reliable performance in compliance with the applicable water and wastewater regulations.

The Walkerton tragedy of 2001 dramatically altered the landscape of water and wastewater treatment. Specifically for First Nations gaps were identified in the capacity, regulations, infrastructure and operation of water treatment facilities. Throughout the past year the OFNTSC has been actively involved in the federal governments' proposed water and wastewater legislation engagement sessions. The purpose of the legislation is to ensure the provision of safe drinking water for First Nations across Canada, and to prevent the release of untreated or inadequately treated sewage from contamination drinking water sources. So far to date elements of the proposed legislation have been shared with some First Nations and it is anticipated that the proposed water legislation will be released in the summer of 2010.

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

- Pic River First Nation - Well Rehabilitation
- Michipicoten First Nation Comprehensive Community Plan
- Algonquins of Pikwakanagan – New Water Supply, Treatment, Storage and Distribution Project
- Attawapiskat First Nation – New Water Intake Study
- Curve Lake First Nation – New Communal Water Supply and Treatment Plant Upgrade Project

It has been a busy year once again for the water and wastewater program of the OFNTSC. The Water and Wastewater program will continue to make an effort of informing the First Nations we serve, about issues of concern through www.ofntsc.org , and discussion board. Water and Wastewater looks forward to serving our First Nations in the coming 2010-2011 and beyond in ensuring First Nations have access to potable water.



CRTP: Water



The Circuit Rider Training Program (CRTP) Water and Wastewater continues to provide First Nations with an utmost important service of facilitating the delivery of training in operations, maintenance and trouble shooting of water and wastewater treatment plants. Delivering potable water continues to be a priority in First Nations across Ontario. CRTP: Water and Wastewater services over 80 First Nations in Ontario and employs over a dozen trainers to deliver training. CRTP: Water and Wastewater utilizes best practices and hands on training to help ensure safe water for First Nations.

CRTP: Water and Wastewater over the past year has focused on being more visible to the communities and people they serve. By being more visible to the communities that the CRTP serves, its hopes are that more attention is paid to water quality issues faced by First Nations. CRTP: Water and Wastewater has updated the 25 modules that provide the technical knowledge to operate and maintain water treatment facilities. A DVD is also in production for CRTP that provides the trainee with access to general, health and safety, academic, operational, certification and maintenance information. Packaging of the CRTP training information will make the information more accessible and easier to use for trainees.

CRTP: Water and Wastewater also expanded its web-presence via www.ofntsc.org. In April 2009, CRTP instituted a web calendar to inform citizens, communities and Tribal Councils of upcoming events and locations of CRTP trainers. While over 80 First Nations currently access CRTP, the need was realized to have a central hub of information for water plant operators and communities. The CRTP Training Schedules calendar displays who will be providing training, where the training will be taking place, what type of training is being offered and when the training will be taking place.

CRTP: Water and Wastewater is in the process of developing a database to allow CRTP trainers to file weekly and monthly reports online. The CRTP database will streamline the reporting mechanisms to the federal government. The database will also allow CRTP: Water and Wastewater to collect relevant information on water treatment facilities and the operators who run them. The database will give the OFNTSC and political organizations the ability to negotiate with the federal government with statistical data. Such as how many operators have been trained, progressed through various licensing levels, extent of repairs undertaken to keep the facility operating and supplying safe drinking water, etc. These questions and more will provide for new insights into First Nations water quality in Ontario.

The training of water plant operators in First Nations will continue to be of utmost importance to the OFNTSC. The OFNTSC hopes to expand the CRTP: Water and Wastewater profile in the coming year to include the overwhelming majority of water plant operators in Ontario. The success that the CRTP: Water and Wastewater program has achieved to date is reflected by the number of licenses obtained by First Nations water plant operators in relation to water treatment. CRTP: Water and Wastewater will continue to work towards First Nation self-reliance and looks forward to serving all of our First Nations.



CRTP: Fuel Systems Management

The Circuit Rider Training Program (CRTP): Fuel Systems Management is responsible for delivering hands on training to First Nations fuel handlers. Through a series of modules with classroom and hands on training at Fuel sites, CRTP: Fuel Systems Management aims to create capacity amongst fuel handlers in Ontario. CRTP: Fuel Systems Management is administered by one trainer, Doug Stuart. Stuart has been delivering Fuel Systems Management training with the OFNTSC for the past six years and the demand for training has never been higher.

A new approach was required within the past year to accommodate the ever increasing demand of the CRTP: Fuel Systems Management program. This new approach required the OFNTSC to make the CRTP: Fuel Systems Management information more accessible to the communities we serve. With that in mind CRTP: Fuel Systems Management, has been working with a production company and produced a video on proper fuel spill response techniques and home heating tank best practices. The video which will become available to all First Nations in Ontario will act as a permanent record for communities in fuel spill responses.



In line with making the information of the CRTP: Fuel Systems Management more accessible a web calendar was developed for the entire CRTP initiative. This web calendar allows users to see where a trainer is on any given day, what training is being delivered, when the training is taking place and what community is hosting the training. This web calendar also allows for users to contact trainers out in the field should there be an emergency that requires an OFNTSC response.

CRTP: Fuel Systems Management program has been working in collaboration with the Environment program to deliver Petroleum Mechanic Helper (PMH) training to communities across Ontario. The PMH training aims to facilitate the attainment of a PMH Certificate. The PMH certificate allows certificate holders without supervision to maintain gas pumps, replace nozzles, spouts, hoses, breakaways, filters and belts and to assess, contain and clean up spills and leaks relating to fuel handling. PMH certification is the first step to achieving a Petroleum Mechanic License. Once a student has completed the PMH course and passed with a 75% grade, that individual is eligible for the next level of certification. A Petroleum Mechanic three (PM3) license is a requirement to work on aboveground fuel storage tank systems and above ground piping. PM2 licence is required to allow Fuel handler to work on underground tanks and piping. The training was well received by all those who attended and demand for this training continues to grow.

The CRTP: Fuel Systems Management program will continue to endeavor to make Fuel Systems Management information more accessible via www.ofntsc.org. The CRTP: Fuel Systems Management program will also pursue making more training video's to serve as hard copies in First Nations in response to emergency situations. By doing so the OFNTSC and CRTP: Fuel Systems Management program hope to encourage safe fuel handling techniques for First Nations in Ontario.

Doug Stuart and the CRTP: Fuel Systems Management program will continue to strive for informing fuel handlers of proper fuel handling procedures in the coming year. CRTP: Fuel Systems Management looks forward to serving you and minimizing the impact on our environment through proper handling of fuel.



Environment

The OFNTSC works closely with First Nations and Tribal Councils, to provide a wide range of environmental advisory services which support an increasing demand to build environment related technical capacity. Initiatives developed to address this need for First Nations and Tribal Councils over the past year included those related to solid waste management and waste diversion, source water protection and specifically individual wells, fuel storage tanks, and energy conservation to highlight a few.



Throughout the past year Deneen Brigham and Stephanie Allen have worked with First Nations and Tribal Councils to provide a better understanding of the environment and the care required to steward the land.

One of the projects that the Environment Program has worked on this year was the solid waste management training. Working with the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) the OFNTSC facilitated training for First Nations landfill managers and operators. Training revolved around best practices for landfill operation and maintenance, and the diversion of certain types of waste from the community landfill including blue box recyclables, used tires, waste electronics, household hazardous waste, used oil, and scrap metal. The response received by the Environment Program for attendance was overwhelming. Landfill operations and waste diversion will continue to be a major area of activity for the Environment program in the coming year.

Within the past year new Federal Fuel Tank Legislation has been enacted. With the new changes all underground and above ground storage tank systems located on First Nation or Federal land with a capacity of 2500 Litres or more, require a storage tank identification number issued from Environment Canada. As of June 12, 2010 suppliers are prohibited from filling storage tanks unless the tank displays an Environment Canada storage tank system identification number and owners or operators of tank systems are required to prepare an emergency plan. The new changes in legislation have kept the Environment program busy in delivering training to meet the requirements and to increase awareness. The OFNTSC has delivered training on the new regulations for storage tank systems, emergency planning, an update of the Liquid Fuel Handling Code for already certified Petroleum Mechanics and three courses of Petroleum Mechanic Helper (PMH) Certification. In addition to the above, OFNTSC's Environmental Staff have provided technical advice to First Nations with implementing contaminated site remediation activities and in completing Environment Site Assessments (ESAs) as requested.

The OFNTSC has partnered with Green Communities Canada on adapting the Well Aware program for First Nations in Ontario. Two pilot communities, the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan, have had the well aware project delivered in their communities and based on the feedback from participants the material including booklets, workshops, guided well assessments, and community water forums has been revised for a First Nations audience. Through this project we have held four technical workshops for First Nations professionals throughout Ontario on well siting, construction, maintenance, testing, and decommissioning. Overall the training and this project has provided a strong technical base of knowledge on individual drinking water wells and groundwater stewardship for First Nations in Ontario.

Future endeavors of the Environment program will focus on priority areas from the perspective of First Nations and Tribal Councils. Some of those areas will include recycling and waste diversion, spills response, contaminated site remediation, energy conservation, landfill operations and maintenance, and source water protection to name a few.

The Environment program has worked tirelessly to provide First Nations and Tribal Councils in Ontario with the required information to aid them in protecting their lands and waters. Programs aimed at providing First Nations and Tribal Councils with the technical information and resources needed to make our communities sustainable for this and future generations' remains the priority of the OFNTSC Environment program. The Environment program looks forward to serving you and a productive 2010-2011.

Fire and Safety

The Fire and Safety program of the OFNTSC provides support to First Nations for fire and safety operations. The Fire and Safety program works within these areas; fire loss prevention, fire related casualties, emergency service training and fire inspection deficiencies. As well the OFNTSC facilitates the purchasing of fire equipment for First Nation fire departments across Ontario.



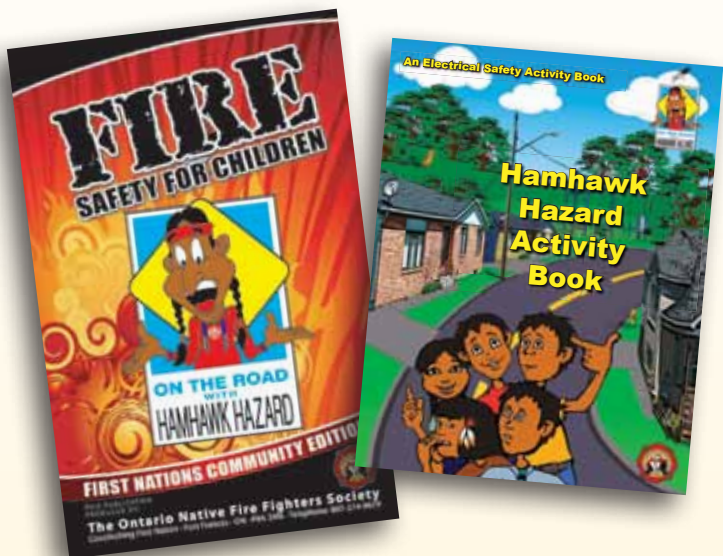
The need for fire equipment amongst First Nations continues to grow each year. The maintenance and operation of this equipment also plays a vital role in delivering emergency services to communities. This past year the OFNTSC's Fire and Safety program facilitated a bulk fire purchase of fire equipment for First Nations. The purchase covered a fire truck "start" test survey, over 21,000 pieces of fire equipment, 3500 copies of fire related print materials (i.e. pump/fire apparatus manuals), training for new equipment and 14 fire trucks. The fire trucks recipients were pre-selected by INAC and were provided to Naicatchewenin, Wikwemikong, Northwest Angle # 33, Mississauga #8, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan, Big Grassy, Michipicoten, Beausoleil, Mattagami, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, Muskrat Dam, M'Chigeeng, Eabametoong and Sandy Lake First Nation. In total \$5.9 million was spent on Fire equipment for First Nations.

As part of the service delivery for the Fire and Safety program the OFNTSC has reached out to Fire Departments across Ontario, for volunteer recruitment and retention training sessions. The sessions were held jointly with ONFFS, to provide small and large volunteer fire departments with guidance on effective strategies, practices, tools and management techniques to retain qualified fire fighters. Sessions were held in Thunder Bay and London, 19 communities were represented by a total of 49 participants.

The past year saw a reduction of the fire related deaths in Ontario. This can be attributed to the hard work and training that volunteer fire fighters put in to make their respective First Nations safe. Ontario First Nations however still had seven fire related fatalities and 17 fire related injuries. The actual numbers of received reported incidents for fire services were over 500 responses during this year. Losses to homes once again totaled over 1 million in First Nations across Ontario. The OFNTSC's Fire and Safety program will continue in their avocation of making fire prevention information available to all communities that the OFNTSC serves.

In the coming year Fire and Safety will endeavour to expand upon the fire prevention materials produce for children. As well Fire and Safety will be working closely again with ONFFS for their work around the ONFFS competition and the 20th Annual ONFFS Conference. The OFNTSC would also like to acknowledge the 20th anniversary creation of the ONFFS.

The Fire and Safety program will continue to build upon the many achievements over the past year. Fire and Safety look forward to serving our First Nations in Ontario and will continue to build relationships that will strengthen our communities.



Housing

The Housing program of the OFNTSC continues to play a vital role in the development of First Nations. Housing on First Nations has continually improved over the past decade thanks to the development of housing policies, capital access and energy saving building programs. The Housing program originally started as a service for building inspections but has since expanded to include housing policy development/management, training and capacity development of First Nation self-reliance.



The OFNTSC Housing Advisors currently participate in and advise the Ontario First Nations Steering Committee on Housing (OFNSCH). The Committee is made up of the provincial territorial organizations that represent the First Nations across Ontario as well as the OFNTSC, and other First Nation housing corporations. The Committee provides regular snapshots of housing concerns for First Nations across Ontario, to the Political Confederacy of the Chiefs of Ontario. Working from a strategic plan developed last year the OFNSCH has focused on the funding level required to address the housing shortage being experienced by First Nations.

The Housing program during the 14th Annual OFNTSC Conference and Tradeshow helped bring together Ontario First Nations building inspectors to participate in this CMHC sponsored event. The aim was to deliver training under the Energy Star program and to have building inspectors come together to discuss housing issues in First Nations. The Housing program received an overwhelming response of individuals wanting to participate and had 25 delegates attend. The Housing program will continue to work with First Nation housing professionals on goals of development and training.

Training continues to be a priority for the Housing program. Over the past year the Housing program has offered training in R-2000 builder's workshops, R-2000 plan evaluator, air tightness tester/inspector workshop, energy advisor/energy star advisor workshops, eco energy advisor and Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing building code courses. Building practices continually evolve over time and the Housing program aims to deliver the best training it can to First Nations. Training schedules and events are routinely posted to www.ofntsc.org.



The Housing program also participated in the delivery and organization of the 8th Annual Northern Housing Conference. The Northern Housing Conference brings together Northern First Nations to discuss and share the unique challenges of housing in Ontario's north. The Conference showcased a builder's challenge and had many First Nation presenters telling their success stories.

The Housing program will continue to focus on training, participating in housing committees, while advising in the development of housing policies, government programs and energy efficiency. The Housing program looks forward to serving First Nations in 2010-2011.

Infrastructure

The OFNTSC's Infrastructure Specialist program continues to play a vital role in Unaffiliated First Nations growth by providing housing inspections, support in the delivery of the Operations and Maintenance program, supporting minor capital projects, supporting training initiatives, and reporting on community assets. For 14 years Infrastructure Specialists have been ensuring First Nations meet and exceed any government building codes for residential and commercial buildings.

The Asset Condition Reporting System (ACRS) measures asset recapitalization requirements, based on actual physical asset condition. ACRS involves an inspection of all on-reserve non-residential, O&M funded assets. This past year, the southern Unaffiliated First Nations have completed the required reporting mechanisms for ACRS, and the OFNTSC Infrastructure Specialists have submitted the completed reports to INAC. This year, the northern Unaffiliated First Nations will complete ACRS projects for their communities. Operations and maintenance issues will continue to be a concern for First Nations as INAC is still reviewing the ACRS process, thus reducing the amount of funding available to First Nations for this process. The OFNTSC will make new information available on this issue through www.ofntsc.org and the discussion board to keep our communities informed of changes.



New buildings and homes are subject to the evolution of housing standards and innovative construction practices. With that in mind the Infrastructure Specialists have supported the implementation of the standard EnerGuide for Houses 80 (EGH 80) for homes and buildings being built in First Nations. The EGH 80 standard requires that new homes have a minimum 80 rating on an EnerGuide for New Houses (EGNH) scale. The EGH 80 certification is a program developed by the federal government's Department of Natural Resources and is a standard to measure a building's energy performance. The Infrastructure Specialists look forward to supporting this new standard.

Maintenance of tangible capital assets continues to be an area of vital importance to First Nations. The investments made to support community infrastructure help extend the usefulness of schools, community centres, health centres and so much more. During the past year the Infrastructure Specialists have assisted First Nations with the maintenance. Regular site inspections combined with training have helped maintenance and capacity development for First Nation building inspectors. The infrastructure program will continue to work with Unaffiliated First Nations to ensure community assets are protected.

To help First Nations organizations address the challenges of securing First Nations infrastructure staff with technical education and experience, the future of the Infrastructure program will see development of an Infrastructure co-op program to develop capacity for First Nations across Ontario. Specifically, First Nations youth will be encouraged to pursue careers in Civil Technology to create more building inspectors for First Nations.

By ensuring that Unaffiliated First Nations continue to receive technical advisory services that meet all of the challenging and changing needs of today and tomorrow, the OFNTSC aims to create capacity for First Nations for generations to come. The Infrastructure Specialist program looks forward to serving our First Nations in 2010-2011.



Operations and Maintenance



Operations and Maintenance (O & M) continues to play a vital role in the successful operation of First Nations. From roads to community equipment the need to maintain these assets has never been more important. The O&M program provides First Nations and Tribal Councils with solutions to enhance their community infrastructure and maintain it for as long as possible. O & M has constantly adapted to meet the increasing reporting mechanisms that First Nations are subject to. By working with systems such as the Integrated Capital Management System (ICMS), Asset Condition Reporting System (ACRS), Tangible Capital Assets (TCA) and many more the O & M program aims to support First Nation policies and programs.

In an effort to make O & M information more accessible to the First Nations and Tribal Councils the OFNTSC serves, the O & M program has worked diligently on updating the information shared through www.ofntsc.org. O & M has reorganized the information contained under its section to reflect an alphabetical ordering system which allows users to navigate the O & M information quicker and easier. O & M also updated its web content to include documents, manuals, and policies from CAIS, ACRS, ICMS, TCA and many more.

A change in the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) requirements has meant that all First Nations in Ontario must now comply with an additional level of reporting on TCA's. O & M has worked hard over the past year by facilitating TCA workshops for First Nations to apprise them of the new PSAB 3150 reporting requirements. The workshops provided a comprehensive overview of TCA's, a TCA Policy and tools that inventoried and calculated amortization values for First Nations TCA's. For individuals who attended these sessions, attendees left with a greater understanding of what will be required to maintain their TCA's and an appreciation for the tools that would simplify their efforts to comply with these new reporting requirements.

Asset Management is a combination of management, financials, economic, engineering, operational and best practices applied to physical assets with an objective of providing the required level of services in the most cost effective manner. Due to increased demands from new regulations and policies an asset management system could assist First Nations in facilitating data and the financial planning resulting in a positive institutional change to community assets management. With ageing infrastructure in First Nation communities, Asset Management will be a driver to facilitate performance measures, help avoid potential crisis, lead to more efficient data management and allow for more accurate financial planning to current & future capital facilities.

O & M will continue to strive to find the most effective ways for First Nations to operate and maintain their community assets. O & M looks forward to serving you and your community in 2010-2011. Check www.ofntsc.org/operation-maintenance-program for regular updates on new and emerging requirements for First Nations.



Communications

Communications continues to play a pivotal role in dispensing information to First Nations and Tribal Councils in Ontario. By making technical information accessible through online databases through www.ofntsc.org, the OFNTSC has witnessed accelerated activity through website applications. An emphasis has been placed on building a website that can give first nations access to information about housing, infrastructure, environment, fire and safety, operations and maintenance, circuit rider training program, events and communications.



At the start of 2009 the OFNTSC launched a discussion forum on our website. The purpose of this forum was to help not only disseminate critical information but also allow the end user to interact with staff and the information posted via the forum. To date the forum has over a 140 members and continues to grow every day. Additionally 146 threads (think themes) have been initiated as well. This year's most popular thread was the "National Engineering Assessment" created by OFNTSC's Jim Taylor. The thread generated over 2500 views in a few short months. Communications will continue to strive for more information being posted to the forum as it has proven to be a valuable tool.

Keeping in-line with the current communications strategy objectives, the OFNTSC has continually looked to new and exciting ways of keeping the First Nations and Tribal Councils we serve informed of the operations that the OFNTSC is executing. With that in mind the OFNTSC over the past year has incorporated a CRTP Training Calendar and a section called "Nations" to ofntsc.org. The CRTP Training Calendar launched in October of 2009. Its purpose is to inform OFNTSC clients of who, where, when and what training is being offered by the CRTP program. Users can view where trainers are, what training they are delivering, who is delivering the training and what training it is. Users can typically see where trainers are up to a month and half before their arrival.

The Nations section of the OFNTSC website is meant to increase the connectivity between the OFNTSC and the clients we serve. A complete listing of the 134 First Nations and the 16 Tribal Councils that exists in Ontario can be found under this section. While this section continues to be updated with First Nations that are building websites, over a 100 links are already in place allowing people to experience different First Nations and Tribal Councils across Ontario.

The OFNTSC within the near future will be taking a look at adding a career section to www.ofntsc.org. With the aim of creating capacity for First Nations, communications will endeavor to encourage youth to become interested in careers of science and technology. By encouraging youth to become engaged and access the information that ofntsc.org holds, capacity and awareness about technical issues faced by First Nations will surely rise in the years to come.

Finally a big thanks goes out to the OFNTSC staff who have worked tirelessly to create an online community. Without the dedication and support of the OFNTSC staff on these communications initiatives ofntsc.org would not be as successful as it has been. Communications looks forward to serving you in 2010 and beyond. Miigwetch



14th Annual OFNTSC Conference and Tradeshow



Sault Ste. Marie has been a meeting place for First Nations for hundreds of years. And so it was apt that the OFNTSC held there 14th Annual Conference and Tradeshow in the city.

The theme of the Conference and Tradeshow was "Sustainability in a Changing Economy".

This was the 14th time that Ontario First Nations and Tribal Councils had come together to share their collective experiences in providing clean water, building affordable energy efficient homes, making communities fire safe, solid waste diversion, asset management and more.

The OFNTSC Conference was held at the Waterfront Inn and Conference Centre located on the shoreline of the tip of Lake Huron. Batchewana and Garden River First Nation both acted as host to the annual gathering of technical professionals.



The Conference kicked off with a prayer from Peter Jones of Garden River. Followed by a honour song from Eastern Thunderbird Child drum group from Batchewana First Nation. Opening remarks were made by OFNTSC President Wes Bova, Executive Director Bob Howsam, Operations Manager Brian Staats, Technical Manager Mat Hoppe, Chief Lyle Sayers, Garden River First Nation, Chief Dean Sayers Batchewana First Nation, Marquis Dumont CMHC, Charlie Wright Ontario Native Fire Fighters Society, and Keynote speeches were given by Brian Hay, Ontario Power Authority and Mike Fox of Fox High Impact Consulting on infrastructure and economic development new and emerging opportunities for First Nations.

This conference's aim was to bring 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 like the Annual Conference and Tradeshow every year in many different locations across Ontario.

Over the course of the next three days, delegates were exposed to information from all OFNTSC service areas such as infrastructure, housing, operations and maintenance, fire and safety, water and wastewater quality, CRTP fuel/water and the environment.

CMHC, who has been a steadfast supporter of the OFNTSC, supplied a workshop on Canada's Economic Action Plan (CEAP): Funding for First Nation Housing and also joined in facilitating the Ontario First Nations Building Inspectors' initiative.

The Ontario Native Fire Fighters Society (ONFFS) also took part in the OFNTSC Conference. It was the 19th time ONFFS have held a conference for training. ONFFS was busy during



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14th Annual OFNTSC Conference and Tradeshow

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their conference administering training for confined space and holding their annual general meeting.

The Aboriginal Water and Wastewater Association of Ontario also held their 15th Annual Training Conference and General Assembly. AWWAO offered training to plant operators in chemical and bacteriological testing, fundamentals of water treatment, applied mathematics and understanding water disinfection.

Highlights of the OFNTSC agenda for the 14th Annual Conference include Energy Star for New Homes Workshop,



Solid Waste Management Diversion: Opportunities & Funding for First Nations, Update on National Engineering Assessment and Water Protocol, First Nations Asset Management and Water Quality Training for Micro-Systems.

The OFNTSC Tradeshow took place on August 26, in the ballroom of the Waterfront Inn. Over 40 businesses came out to promote their products to the technical professionals in attendance. Delegates were exposed to interactive displays and had the chance along with vendors to win multiple prizes for filling out tradeshow prize cards. Vendors were also treated to a barbeque lunch during the Tradeshow, which was enjoyed outside in the beautiful weather.

The closing ceremonies brought back together all of the delegates who had participated over the last three days. Elder Peter Jones, offered a prayer for the safe travel home of all delegates and drum group Eastern Thunderbird Child, sang an honour song to honour the women and men who ensure the safety and health of First Nations.



Indian and Northern
Affairs Canada

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2010 First Nations Water Symposium



In March 2010 at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Centre in Niagara Falls, the Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC) in partnership with the Aboriginal Water and Wastewater Association of Ontario (AWWAO), Health Canada and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) organized the 2010 First Nations Water Symposium.

The symposium aimed to bring together Chief and Council, band administrators, public works managers, directors of health, community health representatives and water plant operators to discuss current issues facing water quality and water/wastewater facilities across Ontario.



The symposium objective was to ensure First Nations have continuous access to information in drinking water quality services and public health in the face of new challenges. Topics discussed during the symposium included resource & capacity development, water quality in First Nations, boil water advisories and removal, draft protocol for wastewater, techniques for delivering safe drinking water, Circuit Rider Training Program and the impending water legislation for First Nations.

Delegates came from across Ontario to participate in the symposium. In order to reach those who could not be in attendance, the OFNTSC setup the symposium to be webcast the morning of March 9, 2010. The webcast generated 20 viewers from First Nations, universities, colleges and tribal councils from across Ontario.

The opening of the 2010 First Nations Water Symposium had opening addresses by OFNTSC President Wes Bova, OFNTSC Executive Director Bob Howsam and AWWAO Chair Kelvin Jamieson. Angus Toulouse, Regional Chief, Chiefs of Ontario also was in attendance and gave the delegates a keynote address on his thoughts on water quality issues in First Nations. Following the Regional Chief was Leigh Jessen, A/Regional Director General, INAC, Ontario Region who provided a keynote address from the Federal Governments perspective on the challenges faced by First Nations in delivering safe water to their respective communities.

A banquet was held the first night of the symposium. The banquet honoured First Nations people who have strived for quality amongst the people that they serve. Highlights of the banquet include Josephine Mandamin who gave attendees of the banquet, a view into what the past few years of her life have been like. Mandamin has been on a water walk around the great lakes basin for the past five years as part of her responsibility as a water keeper.



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2010 First Nations Water Symposium

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The banquet was also highlighted by Maude Barlow, National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians. Maude's message to the attendees was that water needs to be declared a basic human right. Barlow discussed the "myth of water abundance" in Canada and exposed the careless treatment of the Canada's freshwater resources.

The OFNTSC and AWWAO also took time to honour First Nation individuals who have persevered and accomplished their class three licenses for water treatment facilities in Ontario.



On the lighter side delegates then were entertained by motivational comedian Gord Paynter. Losing his eye sight in his early twenties as a result from diabetes, Paynter has succeeded in his endeavor to not let a disability to slow him down.

The banquet closed with a screening of the documentary "Waterlife". The documentary follows the flow of water amongst the great lakes and the issues that are now facing the largest freshwater source in the world.

Day two of the symposium focused on the technical aspects of water quality. Presentations were made to delegates on a various amount of topics including Addressing Water Quality in First Nations, Protocols for Water and Wastewater Systems, Operator Certification, Operator Training Centres and a Circuit Rider Training Program.



The closing of the 2010 First Nations Water Symposium began with a small video wrap up of the past two days of events. The wrap up video highlighted some important comments made by presenters and delegates. The video also highlighted achievements to ensure safe water quality in First Nations across Ontario.

The symposium closed with remarks from host community Chief, Bill Montour of Six Nations of the Grand River, OFNTSC President Wes Bova and OFNTSC Executive Director Bob Howsam.

A special thank you goes out to Elmer Lickers 2010 First Nations Water Symposium Coordinator (OFNTSC's Operation and Maintenance Technologist) for all of his hard work and dedication that made the 2010 First Nations Water Symposium a huge success.



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Building Foundations For Community Growth



15th Annual OFNTSC Conference & Tradeshow

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www.ofntsc.org

For More Information :
Kristen Hill, Conference Coordinator
416.651.1443 Ext 222



15th Annual

Ontario First Nations
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Student Classic

Join us on
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4-Person Scramble
Shotgun Start at 1 p.m.

Entry Fee: \$150 per Person

3 Divisions:
Men's Division
Women's Division
Mixed Division

Fax Completed
Registration Forms to:
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(416) 651-1673
No later than August 6

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