



OMUSHKEGO ISHKOTAYO TIPACHIMOWIN

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2015 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



June, 2015: A visitor, quite large, captured on camera behind the FNEI office building on the edge of our property!

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF:



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 2015

By Mr. Derek Chum, FNEI Director/President

Wacheyeh! Greetings! First of all, on behalf of our FNEI Board of Directors, we want to acknowledge the dedication and commitment shown by Mr. George Reuben, who was appointed in August, 2012, and Mr. Russell Friday, who was appointed in April, 2014, to sit on our FNEI Board of Directors. Both Mr. Reuben and Mr. Friday completed their terms on October 27, 2015, as Representatives of the Kashechewan Power Corporation (KPC). We wish them well in their future endeavours! We also welcome the two new Directors appointed by KPC to the FNEI Board, Mr. Henry Kooseses, and Mr. James Goodwin. We are sure both gentlemen will find this experience rewarding!

We also want to acknowledge the former FNEI Officers who have served with FNEI in past years! In the early years of FNEI, Mr. Mike Metatawabin was appointed to the FNEI Board as a Director representing Fort Albany Power Corporation (FAPC), and while a Director, he also was appointed as President on December 16, 2003. After his tenure as a Director, Mr. Metatawabin continued in his role as President for many years until 2010 to pursue other interests. He then was appointed back in June 2013, as the President and continued in this role until October, 2015. We have to acknowledge that Mr. Metatawabin played an important and key role in the early years of FNEI along with the Late Mr. Ed Chilton, who was also the Secretary/Treasurer of FNEI for many years before his passing; and the Late Mr. Larry Brooksbank, who was the former key Advisor of FNEI. As part of the FNEI Project Team, Mr. Metatawabin was also instrumental in diligently working with the communities and governments, to ensure the Omushkego Ishtotayo project, now known as the FNEI Transmission Line, became a reality for the communities in the James Bay region, let alone owned by Attawapiskat, Fort Albany, and Kashechewan, First Nations! These communities, which relied on diesel generation prior to the installation of the FNEI Transmission line, now have the benefit of providing electricity to their homes and businesses. To bring the FNEI line to fruition is a big accomplishment, and we fully recognize that Mr. Metatawabin was a major part of this immense accomplishment, and, subsequently, FNEI was deemed a success story by many, including FNEI being selected and winning the Northern Ontario Business Award in October, 2007, during Mr. Metatawabin's tenure. On behalf of our Board, we very much applaud his involvement, and we want to acknowledge the dedication and commitment he showed during his tenure with FNEI. We wish him the very best with his future endeavours! As we move forward, we want to continue the legacy of those who came before us, and at the same time embracing change! At this time, we also want to acknowledge Mr. Guy

Ginter, who held the Vice President's role since June, 2013. We welcomed his expertise having worked in the electricity industry in past years. Mr. Ginter also gained experience working with First Nations, and is currently working for Moose Cree First Nation in the capacity as a Director for the De Beers Canada Impact & Benefits Agreement for Moose Cree First Nation. We wish Mr. Ginter the very best!!

We welcome to FNEI, Ms. Albalina Metatawabin, as the Vice President, and Mrs. Patricia Sutherland, as the Secretary/Treasurer! We look forward in working with Albalina and Patricia! Both are from the Fort Albany First Nation.

Lastly, we saw the departure of our Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Ms. Lucie Edwards, in October, 2015, who decided to move on to other endeavours. Ms. Edwards was with FNEI as the CEO since July, 2011. During her tenure with FNEI, the new FNEI office was built and completed, and the office made its official move in August, 2013! A Grand Opening, which was a success, was held in September, 2013, in which Ms. Edwards was instrumental in leading this event! While at FNEI, she also oversaw, among other projects, the Conservation Demand Management (CDM) program, and the Aboriginal Community Energy Plan (ACEP), for the communities. These two programs continue on in the communities that own FNEI. We only wish the very best to Ms. Edwards in her future undertakings!! Our staff also wants to acknowledge Ms. Lucie Edwards, and that she always took time to listen to what they had to say. On behalf of our Board and Staff, we very much wish Ms. Edwards the very best in her future endeavours!!

With that, and the Christmas season soon upon us, on behalf of the FNEI Board and Staff, we wish everyone a Safe, and Joyous Christmas Season!!



PICTURES OF THE EARLY YEARS OF THE OMUSHKEGO ISHKOTAYO PROJECT



The Leadership, to the left, which was instrumental in getting the Omushkego Ishkotayo project going!

Left to Right: Back Row

Chief Peter Archibald, Taykwa Tagamou Nation; Chief Arthur Scott, Fort Albany First Nation (Deceased 2010); Chief Oliver Wesley, Kashechewan First Nation.

Left to Right: Front Row

Chief Ernest "Toby" Beck, Moose Cree First Nation; Chief Ignace Gull, Attawapiskat First Nation; Mr. Ernie T. Sutherland, 1st President of FNEI (Deceased 2006)

Photo Courtesy of FNEI.



The Omushkego Ishkotayo Project Team to the left.

Left to Right: Back Row

Chief Arthur Scott, Fort Albany First Nation (Deceased 2010); Mr. Merv McLeod, McLeod Wood Associates Inc.; Mr. Ed Chilton, Project Coordinator, FNEI (Deceased 2013).

Left to Right: Middle Row

Ms. Nancy Wood, McLeod Wood Associates Inc.; Mr. Peter Budd, 1st Secretary for FNEI; Mr. David McIntyre, Power Budd, LLP, for FNEI; Chief Oliver Wesley, Kashechewan First Nation; Chief Peter Archibald; Taykwa Tagamou Nation.

Left to Right: Front Row

Chief Ernest "Toby" Beck, Moose Cree First Nation; Chief Ignace Gull, Attawapiskat First Nation; Mr. Ernie T. Sutherland, 1st President of FNEI (Deceased 2006)

Photo Courtesy of FNEI.



I am a Groundhog, and have decided to make a home under this rock I am sitting on right near the front door of the FNEI office building!! Cool Eh!



This may be my best side!!



OK-enough already!! I am tired, it's time for my nap!!

OPERATIONS MANAGER'S UPDATE 2015

By Mr. Vladimir Govorov

2015 FNEI Operations Updates

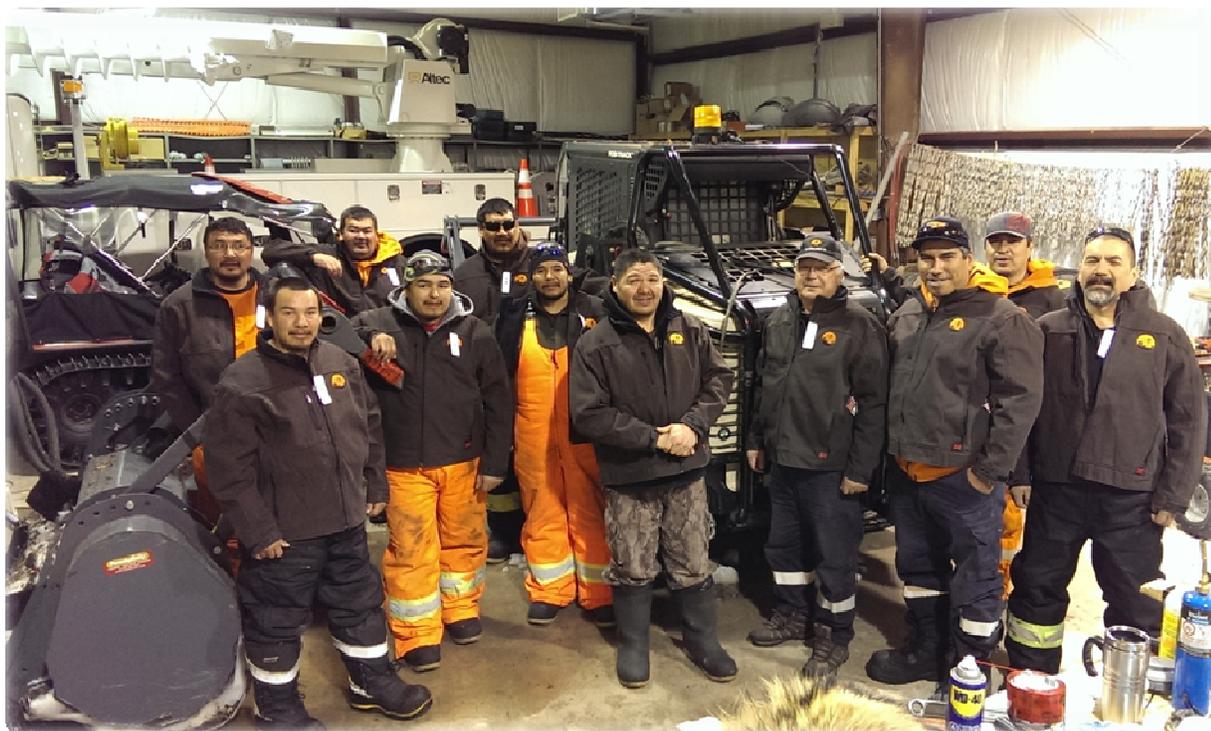
Great news first: the second line from Otter Rapids to Moosonee is in service since September 25, 2015! Parallel feed will significantly improve reliability for all communities. It means much less outages related to the bad weather conditions.

At the same time in year 2015, the system had better performance than in the past several years, the number and longevity of outages are significantly reduced as a result of repairs performed by Hydro One on their old line from Otter Rapids to Moosonee and better weather conditions.



Main Projects of 2015

Right of Way brush cutting: this is a very important job to avoid trees growing into the High Voltage transmission line, causing outages and safety hazards. The project ran South of Fort Albany, and all work was completed as planned.



This year, we had a good team of individuals; this allowed to work safely and efficiently. The project will continue in 2016 North of Fort Albany, on the islands, and South of Attawapiskat.

OPERATIONS MANAGER'S UPDATE 2015 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7



Besides routine maintenance, FNEI staff is involved in ongoing *modifications of the transformer stations* at each community.

Status up to date: Fort Albany station distribution side modifications are almost complete. The new layout will allow to perform maintenance of the equipment with minimal downtime for the customers. The modifications have already started in Kashechewan and Attawapiskat.



This project includes power cables rearrangement, additional breakers installation, protection and control panels redesign and metering installation. The FNEI crew is performing all necessary work, at the same time gaining important trade knowledge and experience.

Some work is getting done with community help. Jacques Camirand is leading the local crew in Fort Albany and Kashechewan on behalf of FNEI. *Gravel crushing and replacement* was completed in Fort Albany this summer, and some of the gravel was moved to Kashechewan this winter. Gravel prepared this summer will be moved during winter 2016. Partially, gravel work in Kashechewan is getting done this fall. We started to work on the berm wall that was burned last year. The horizontal poles will be re-



Burned berm wall in Kashechewan

MR. ROBERT CHOOKOMOOLIN RECEIVES HIS SUBSTATION ELECTRICIAN'S LICENCE!!

Back in 2009, Mr. Robert (Bobby) Chookomoolin was a placement student with FNEI while he was enrolled in the Construction Maintenance Apprenticeship Electrician program through Northern College in South Porcupine.

licenced Substation Electrician!!

On behalf of the FNEI Board of Directors, and Staff, we offer congratulations to Bobby on his successful completion of his apprenticeship program!!

Bobby is a First Nation member from Winisk First Nation in the Hudson's Bay region.



CONGRATULATIONS TO BOBBY!!

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In January, 2011, he was hired on a full time basis with FNEI. During the years, Bobby completed his apprenticeship training while employed with FNEI. With much hard work and determination, we are pleased to announce that Bobby wrote and passed his Red Seal exam, and is now a

Below, Bobby, left, receiving his award from Ms. Lucie Edwards, FNEI CEO!! Congratulations to Bobby!!



FNEI COMMUNITY DONATIONS

Each year, we receive funding requests under our Community Donations, and some of them are highlighted here.

Mushkegowuk Challenge Cup 2015:

Each year also, for the past 8 years, Mushkegowuk Council has provided an opportunity for hockey teams in the region to participate in their annual hockey tournament. This year, it was held in February, 2015, in Timmins. Many hockey teams, from Attawapiskat, Fort Albany, Kashechewan, and even the TTN Little Crees aged 5—6 years old and whom we showcased on our front cover of our 2014 Annual Newsletter, participated in this event!! According to the organizers, many people in the Communities look forward to the hockey tournament, which has grown in popularity. Hockey teams from Chisabi, Quebec, and other areas out of the region, also participated. This event is open to Youth ranging in age from 5 to 21 years! We congratulate the organizers for another successful tournament!! We wish them another great hockey tournament in 2016!!

Iskwewuk (Women) of Fort Albany:

This year, ten Women from Fort Albany whom have never attended the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) Women's Forum got to go to this forum in Thunder Bay that was held in February, 2015!! According to Ms. Skylene Metatawabin, NAN Women's Council Representative, in her letter to FNEI

on January 15, 2015, it states, "By bringing women together in a safe space to engage, network, inspire and motivate to learn life, business, employment, leadership skills and other important issues will build capacity in our communities and will create "leaders" and their actions will continue to have a ripple effect in contributing to other women and families. Thus creating "Stronger Women, Stronger Families, and Stronger Communities." Well said, Skylene!

Canada Day Celebrations in Moose Factory Co-ordinated by Moose Cree First Nation Youth Services:

According to Ms. Leona Chilton, Youth Program Supervisor at the John R. Delaney Youth Centre, the Youth Centre is now co-ordinating and leading the Canada Day celebrations which were held in Moose Factory on July 1, 2015! The Canada Day Celebration is a non-profit event, and therefore, funds from other organizations is very much appreciated by the organizers to help offset costs to put on such an event for the benefit of the whole Community! This year was no exception, and many people attended the event!

Aboriginal Team Ontario U19 Girls Basketball:

Ms. Christiana Nakogee, Team Representative, is very proud of three of their Fort Albany Girls Basketball players who were selected in 2014 to play with the Aboriginal Team Ontario, and

this team played at the North American Indigenous Games in Regina, Saskatchewan, in the summer of 2014!! This team won a Gold Medal!! According to Ms. Christiana Nakogee, the Board of Directors of the World Youth Basketball Tournament has invited the Aboriginal Team Ontario to compete at this year's World Youth Tournament!! This tournament will be held in Kona, Hawaii, in August, 2015!! As Ms. Christiana Nakogee states, "Imagine three young ladies from a small town in Northern Ontario playing World Youth Basketball!!!! These girls are role models to our communities. This will encourage young players to play with the highest potential and great expectations. We are all excited for them."

On behalf of FNEI, we very much congratulate the Ladies on their accomplishments, and wish them well at the World Tournament!!

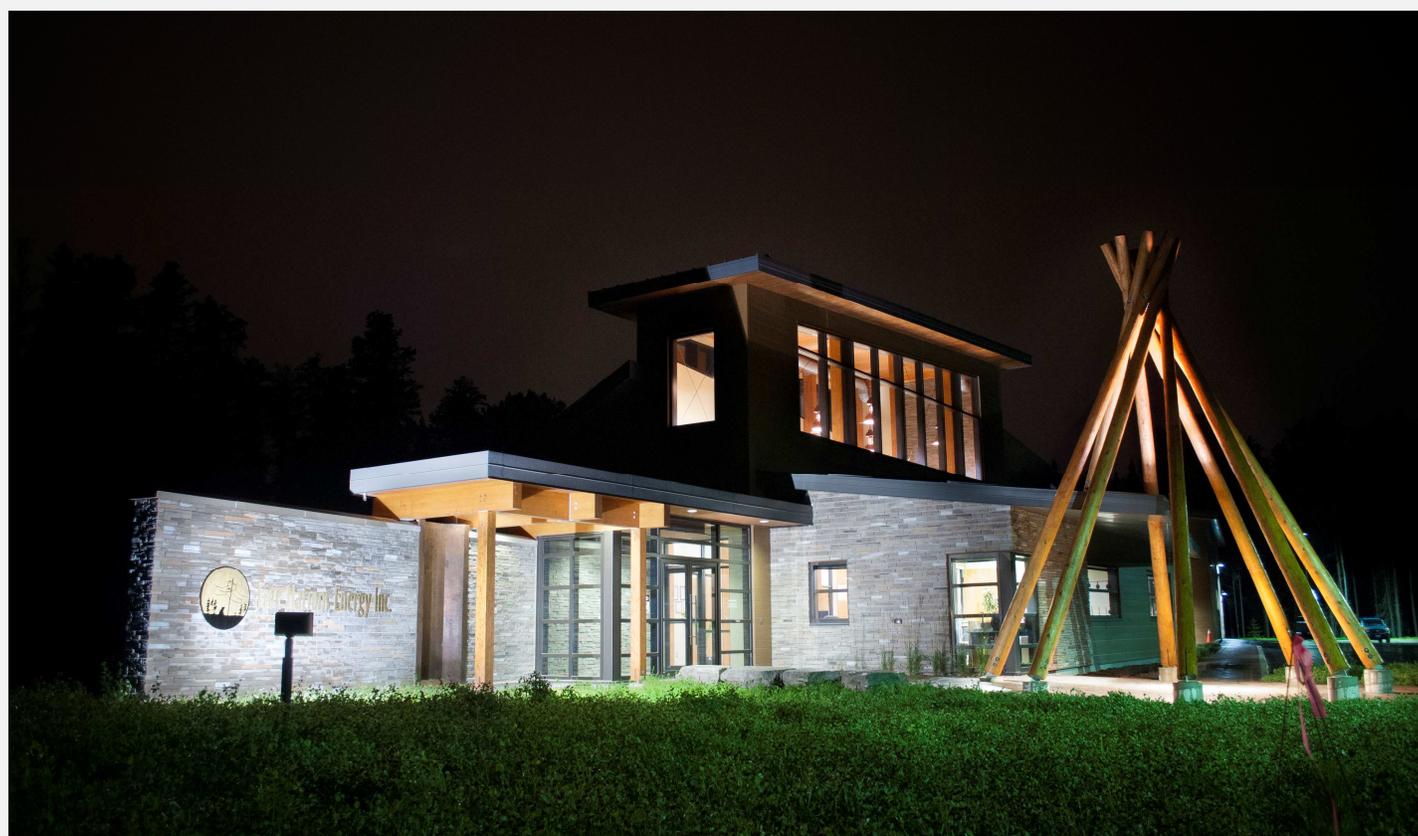
Creefest (Winter) 2015:

Every year, FNEI provides funds to Creefest. This past year, Creefest celebrations were held in Fort Albany, and in winter this time! According to Mr. Greg Spence, Co-ordinator of Creefest, the event went well, which also featured local and regional musicians to entertain the crowd! Creefest is being planned for next year, and no doubt, will be another successful event!

PICTURES OF FNEI OFFICE BUILDING



Professional pictures, above & below, taken at night by a professional photographer for FNEI.



PICTURES PAGES 20-23



As you see on the left, this is the actual FNEI sign that sits within our property by Highway 655 looking north. The road you see directly behind the sign is the road coming off to the left from Highway 655 when you are traveling from the south side of Highway 655, and the first or second left hand turnoffs lead into our parking lot. This sign was designed by Mr. Vladimir Govorov, FNEI Operations Manager, and the Cree translation was verified by Mr. George Reuben, former FNEI Director.

The assembly of the sign was completed by FNEI Staff.



Left, this is what the FNEI property looked like in 2011 before the FNEI Office was built!



Above, this was the start of construction of the new FNEI Office.

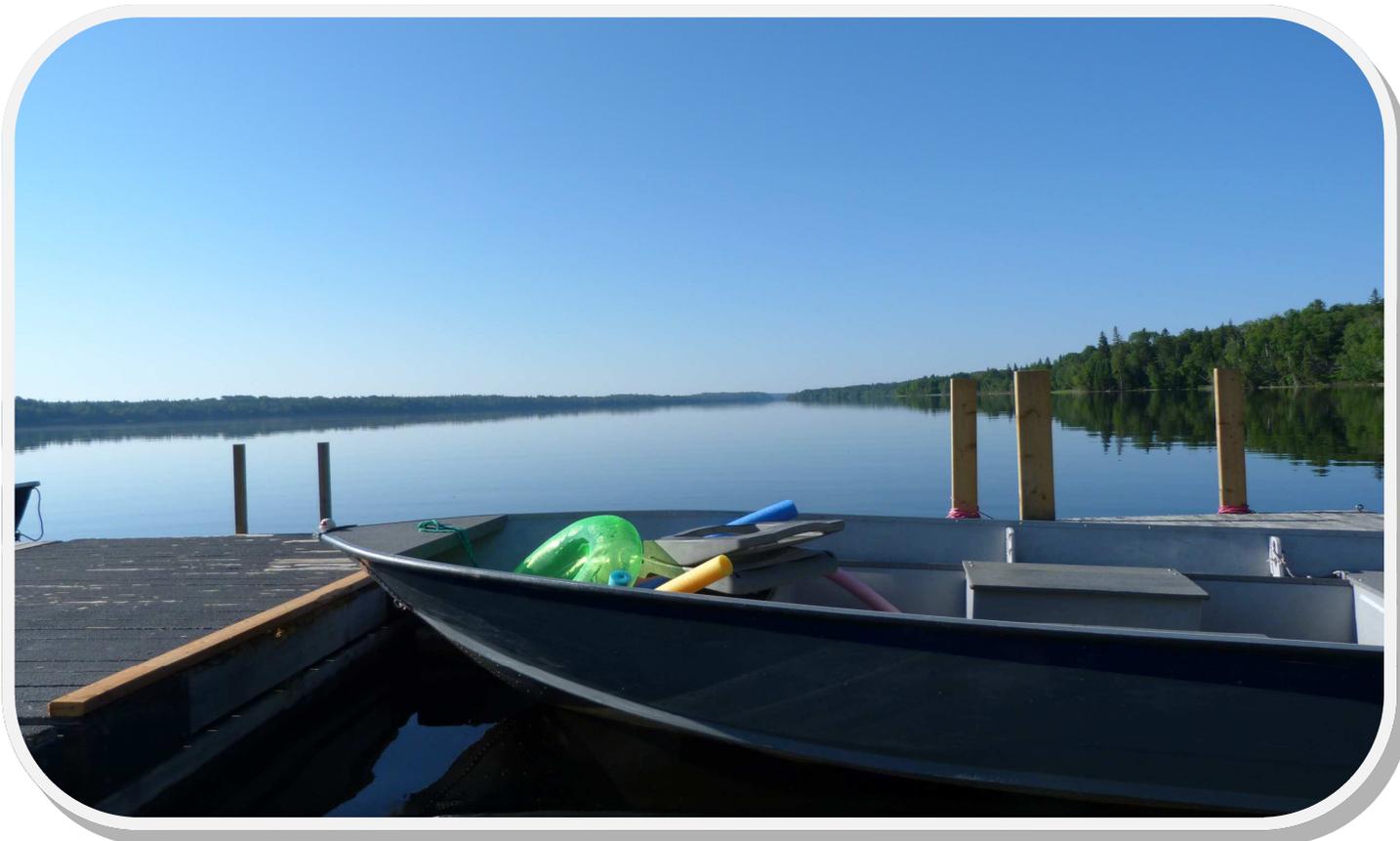
Below, the FNEI Office building is taking shape!

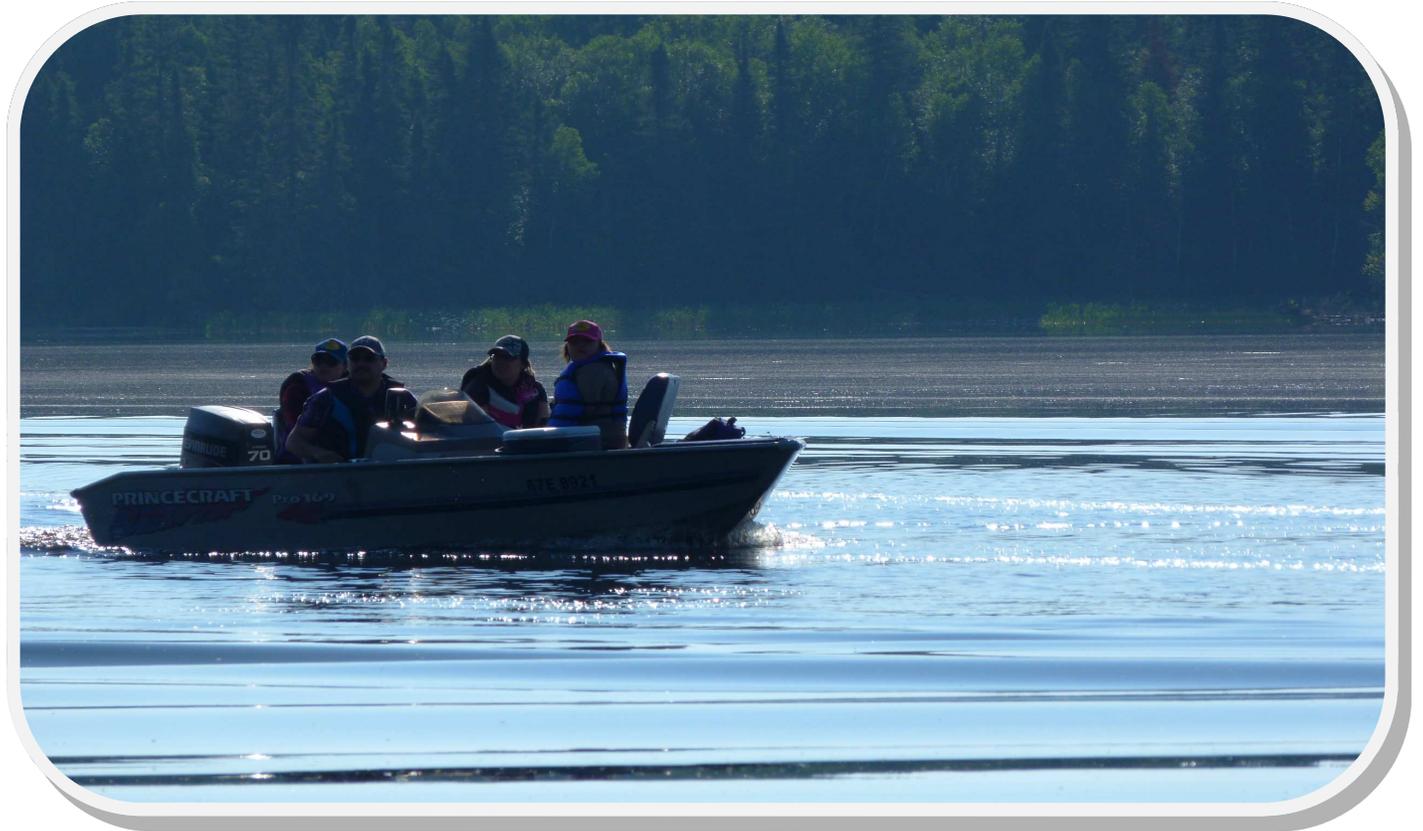


FNEI STAFF RETREAT: FISHING DAY JULY 24, 2015



Above-No one has arrived yet to go fishing! But at least there is a boat below waiting to be boarded!!





**Above, at last, arriving to meet some of the staff at the docks is Tony Iserhoff, FNEI Employee, and his family!
Below, here comes Vladimir Govorov, Operations Manager, FNEI, boating to the docks with his family!
At least the empty boat waiting to be boarded (picture bottom of Page 24) was also boarded along with two extra other boats!!**



CONSERVATION ON THE COAST PROGRAM

By Ms. Gail Lawlor, Project Manager



Working together to make our homes, healthy, comfortable and energy efficient.

Good things are happening in our communities with energy conservation! Energy retrofits of homes have begun and the Community Energy Plan is underway.

The FNEI Conservation Program started the energy efficiency work in the communities in 2011 with many different activities such as providing some funding for hands on science training for the youth, free interior window film and cold water laundry detergent, energy efficiency calendars, installation of energy efficient products in each home and much more.

Attawapiskat, Kashechewan, and Fort Albany, Power Corporations have continued what FNEI began with the launch of their conservation programs in the fall of 2014. The three Power Corporations are working together to deliver energy retrofits for homes and the installation of more efficient lighting for small businesses. {NOTE: The Power Corporations provide these conservation programs as a requirement of their provincial license.} Craig Nootchtaï is the Program Manager and Louis Noah, Shirley Wynne and Roxanne Achneepineskum work in their respective community as the local coordinator. Trained, local community members do the energy audits and the energy retrofit work. Gail Lawlor and Rick Brant provide technical assistance and training to the program team.

Over 300 energy audits were conducted in the fall of 2014 and about 40 energy retrofits were done between the three communities in 2015. The first homes chosen for the audits and energy retrofits meet strict criteria set out by the provincial government that the Power Corporations must adhere to. The audit includes a depressurization test to determine how drafty the home is and the auditor notes the amount of insulation. Some basic energy saving products such as LED light bulbs and water heater insulation were installed at the same time. The energy retrofits include air sealing to reduce drafts and heat loss, and extra insulation for the attic, walls and crawlspaces. This work will make the home healthier, more comfortable and will reduce the cost to heat it in the winter. It is hoped that all of our communities' homes will undergo part or all of the energy retrofit work between 2015 and 2020. A request for more money and some program rule changes are under discussion with the province to ensure that we can meet this goal. We will keep the communities posted on our progress.

In addition, many small businesses in all three communities had their inefficient lighting changed to more efficient bulbs. We thank the Mennonite Central Committee for providing two volunteer electricians to do this work!

In addition to the Power Corporations' energy conservation programs, there is also a two-year Community Energy Plan (CEP) underway. The purpose of the CEP is to work individually and collectively with Attawapiskat, Kashechewan and Fort Albany Chiefs and Councils and the community members to look for opportunities to move towards a more sustainable future. Improving housing and investigating the economic feasibility of renewable energy are two key issues being studied after discussions with all chiefs and councils in the fall of 2014 and community members at Cree Fest in February 2015. Over the next year, the CEP team: Mike Metatawabin, Tom Laronde, Rick Brant, John Jeza and Gail Lawlor will be further exploring options and discussing these ideas with the communities.

"Conservation on the Coast" is the name that refers to both the Power Corporations' energy retrofit work and the Community Energy Plan. Our goal is: *"Working together to make our homes, healthy, comfortable and energy efficient."*

You can keep informed of our work by Liking the Facebook page for your community:

- Conservation on the Coast – Attawapiskat Power Corporation
- Conservation on the Coast – Kashechewan Power Corporation
- Conservation on the Coast – Fort Albany Power Corporation

Watch for our upcoming 2016 Conservation on the Coast calendar, featuring more energy saving tips and photos of the energy retrofit work. We appreciate the cooperation and participation of all of the Chiefs and Councils, business owners and community members. Together we will make our communities healthier and more energy efficient.



Our Community Energy Plan poster used to ask what does a sustainable future look like for your community.

Pictures from the Conservation on the Coast Program Below



Above: Adding insulation to the crawlspace walls and poly on the ground to stop the moisture in Fort Albany.



Above: Air sealing an attic floor in Kashechewan in preparation for blowing in insulation.



Above: Adding insulation to the walls of a home in Attawapiskat.

