

One of Netmizaaggamig's most influential Chiefs was Gegishkwuab, also known as Little Chief and Spring Captain. He had his own hunting territory from 1818 to 1850 over an expansive area. In the 1800's the Hudson Bay Company agents regarded him as one of the best hunters of the region. Gegishkwuab was such a skilled hunter and trapper that the Hudson's Bay Company built a post closer to his grounds to trade with him.

### NO TREATY - RST 1850

The Robinson Superior and Robinson Huron Treaties were signed at Sault Ste. Marie in 1850 on September 7th and 9th respectively. The Anishinaabeg attendees at the treaty included the Chiefs and principal men from Fort William, from Lake

Nipigon and from Michipicoten. No Anishinaabe Chiefs or headmen from Netmizaaggamig were represented at the Treaty and therefore did not sign the Treaty. Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg has never ceded its lands. As a result, Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg maintains Aboriginal Title over the entirety of its territory.

### NETMIZAAGGAMIG NISHNAABEG'S FUTURE

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Though we cannot be sure exactly what the future holds for our community, we have many exciting projects underway and we know it will be bright. We hope to restore our language and culture while we continue to assert our rights in our territory.

In Anishinaabe worldview we are taught that you must leave the land well enough for seven generations into the future. The land and waters are inextricably linked and essential to our way of life. We acknowledge park users as guests to our homelands and ask that they walk with care as they enjoy the lands and waters we inherit from our ancestors. This is a great gift to our people and must be cared for.

### **Miigwech! Thank you!**



### NETMIZAAGGAMIG NISHNAABEG **White Lake is Our Home**



**BIINDIGEN!** (Welcome!) You are currently in Netmizaaggamig (NET-MI-ZAA-GAMIG) Nishnaabeg's territory. An Anishinaabe community with two small reserves which lie at the mouth of the White River, along the eastern shores of White Lake. Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg consists of approximately 1,010 members, 400 of which live on reserve.

Our elders refer to White Lake as a warehouse for food, medicines, and an important place for our ceremonies. It is the heart of our territory and a core aspect of the community's identity. We have been hunting, trapping, fishing, and caretaking these lands and waters since time immemorial and continue to do so today.



## NETMIZAAGGAMIG NISHAABEG'S HISTORY

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White Lake has always been central to Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg. The Lake has been the nexus of travel, trade and occupation for the community. While most Canadians know this lake by its new name, 'White Lake', its original name is Netmizaaggamig meaning, "The First Lake from the Big Lake" (Lake Superior). The lake gets its name from a historical (and contemporary) canoe route where White Lake is the first lake north from Lake Superior.

Our hunting grounds included White Lake, Lake Obakamiga, Kabinakagami Lake, Nagagami and Nagagamissis Lakes. Our Ancestors travelled along the connecting Rivers between these Lakes and Lake Superior: White River, Shabotik River, Shekak River, and Nagagami River.

By the time the Fur Trade was well established in the area in the 1700's, villages on Lake Obakamiga and White Lake were cited by settlers including the agents of the Hudson Bay Company.

Many of Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg's ancestors traded at Hudson Bay Company Posts in the interior and on Lake Superior, at Long Lake, Flint Lake, Kabinakagami, Michipicoten, Pic and the Brunswick House Post to the East.

As Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg was not present during the signing, it was not provided with a Reserve under the Robinson Treaty. Extraordinarily, ancestors of Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg purchased with their own funds a small parcel of their land from the Federal government for a Reserve.

A court action was initiated in the early 1980's and much work has been done to date. Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg and the governments of Ontario and Canada have entered into settlement negotiations in 2017 and those negotiations are on-going.

Today, Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg citizens reside along the shores of White Lake, and continue to uphold their traditions and way of life on this lake and the sacred islands on it.

## NETMIZAAGGAMIG NISHAABEG'S PRESENT

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Netmizaaggamig is a strong economic player in the region. It is part owner of Gitchi Animki Hydroelectric Project which provides sustainable energy to the area. The community is part owner of White River Forest Products and is building a business venture along Highway 17.

Netmizaaggamig also owns White Lake Limited Partnership, which focuses on procurement projects and boosts economic development.

Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg is involved in education and self governance projects that forward its self-determination.

The community like many other First Nations was without drinking water for many years. In 2016, Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg finished building a Water Treatment facility and draws its drinking water directly from White Lake. Keeping this waterbody clean and healthy is essential for the health and wellbeing of our citizens.

Our language is called Anishinaabemowin and sadly due to the Residential School system this language is currently considered endangered. We do not have any fluent speakers in our community. However, we do have people showing an interest in learning the language and we hope to revitalize it.

Our annual community powwow takes place during the August long weekend. We invite you to visit, eat well, and learn more about our culture and presence on our lands and territory.

