



Quarterly Newsletter October to December 2023

Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg

The fourth quarterly newsletter is focused on recent presentation to band members. A full slide show was presented to band members in December 2023. Three presentations Sault Ste Marie, Thunder Bay and in community. The following content is a copied draft from that slideshow.

Developing and Providing a Voice to Our Youth

- A Youth Council is in the process of being developed.
 - There has been significant engagement from the Youth to participate.
 - Several meetings have taken place and policies are being developed



- The Youth have represented the membership at various conferences over the past year

- The future is looking bright as the Youth continue to be supported and are demanding a voice.

2021- 22 & 2022 - 23 Financial Highlights (Unaudited)

- Received draft audited statements for 2021-22, final approved expected in January 2024
- Work has begun on the 2022-23 audit
- Secured a 25 year \$8.0M loan with CIB to develop the New Subdivision

Category	21-22 Consolidated (Millions)	22-23 Unconsolidated (Millions)
Revenue	25.2	26.5
Wages and Benefits	4.9	5.7
Professional Fees	3.4	4.4
Post Secondary Exp.	0.4	0.5



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Organizational Changes and New Positions 2022 - 2023

Early 2021 Donna Sutherland became acting Band General Manager and become permanent Band General Manager April 2022

- November 2021 Joel Merrylees became the new CFO
- April 2022 Joe Moses became the new CEO
- Social Services was split with two new departments:
 - Band Representative
 - Land Base and Culture
- The following positions are new to help aid in supporting Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg and its membership:
 - Mental Health Coordinator
 - IT Director
 - Public Safety and Security Director
 - Band Representative Manager and Band Representative Workers (2)
 - Land Based Advisor
 - Youth Coordinator
 - Housing Maintenance (3) and Tennant Officer
 - HR Generalist

- Executive Assistant to Chief and Council
- Financial Analyst
- Sr. Accountant

Public Works & Water Treatment

- Chris Bananish is Class 2 for treatment and distribution
- Water Treatment Plant Membrane Replacement
- Water main mapping and fire hydrants and Shut offs all service connections
- Underground electrical identification
- Road signage with new street names & House numbers
- Road repairs ongoing
- Asphalt repair four sections planned for 2024
- Hydro one contract clearing of Hydro line Right of Way
- All band members made a work crew and cleared areas on community property from the Band office to Hwy 17
- Summer and winter road maintenance
- Ditching, pot holes, snow clearing

Infrastructure / Housing Units / Equipment In Service 2021 - 2023

- NN becomes an internet service provider and provides free hi-speed internet to the community



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- 9 Units put into service 2021-2022
- 16 major renovations to community homes
- A new skating rink
- Three trucks (1 Housing, 2 Public Works)
- Four school vans and one medical van
- A loader, excavator and skid steer
- Tractor, snowblower and pull behind Zamboni
- Over 20 septic systems replaced
- Major heating system upgrade to the school. Switch from oil to propane.
- New fishing dock
- Two 2 bedroom houses
- Family Services building
- The New Subdivision (roads, water and booster station) and several lots cleared
- Roof for the rink
- Major roofing project to community homes
- Gas Bar on the highway
- Industrial Park to securely house Band and White Lake equipment.
- Major repairs to homes (over 800k to 10 homes)



Infrastructure and Housing Units to be In Service 2024

- Two complexes of four single unit apartments

Infrastructure and Housing Units to be In Service 2025 (tentative)

- Youth / Rec centre (size will depend on available funding, currently waiting on a response)
- Housing warehouse and Public Works garage.
- Up to four 2 bedroom houses in the new sub division
- Powwow Grounds Expansion (more camping lots)
- One medical van
- One mobility van for on demand transit



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Cultural Landbase Program

The Cultural Landbase program is operating in its 4th year and was established to reconnect our community members to culture and the land. We also provide wrap around services to all of the departments of Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg. Here are some of the many activities we do:

- Monday morning ceremony with school students and teachers
- Men and women groups
- Spring fasting with individuals
- Youth outings example; round dance, powwow
- Support the Band Rep Program with child welfare concerns between Dilico and families
- Sweat lodge / sharing circles
- Annual moose camp with community members and staff
- Landbase Program on the land with youth and community members
- An array of programs and ceremonies throughout the year



- One of our successful programs is the Youth Landbase Summer Program.
- We have taken Youth on the land to participate in ceremony.
- Canoe Certification and canoe trip
- Connecting back to the land where the youth get to experience the true essence of Mother Nature and a sense of belonging
- The students learn essential life skills, team work, survival skills
- Organize supports for youth to attend youth focused conferences, workshops, the Nokiiwin Unity Gathering etc.

Netamisakomik Centre For Education

- The highlight of our school, has been the introduction of weekly ceremony and the growth of our boy's drumming group. We have



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seen amazing growth with these young boys!!

- Our staff team has grown, consisting of 4 classroom teachers, 10 E.As, a Secretary, School Cook, Child and Youth Worker, Language/Cultural Teacher, a Gym Instructor, 2 Custodians, 3 Daycare Workers, an Educational Consultant and a Spec. Ed Consultant.
- The focus continues to be Literacy and Math, strengthening the skills the students need to be successful! The students now have access to their own laptops, where they can login to our many educational programs.



Pictured: The boys drumming group at the weekly start of the school week ceremony this fall

- The school has implemented a “Shout Out” program, where the students are recognized for great things. Along with this, staff will be trained in our upcoming program, “SNAP”, which helps develop skills needed for social and emotional learning. We continue to recognize students at our month end assemblies for things they have accomplished through the month.
- The students love to participate in events with other schools, which in part, develops and fosters relationships with our neighboring schools and school boards.
- We are very excited to say that Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg has signed an Engagement Framework Agreement with the Superior-Greenstone District School Board, along with the other Communities representing our region with KEB. Details for



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the signing ceremony will be known in the new year.

- If you haven't had the chance to check out what's happening at the school, please feel free to stop by and see the changes and our school library!!
- Upcoming news for the school; starting a Parent/School Council, an exciting summer program and parent support group will be underway with planning in the new year. Please reach out for more information!
- The staff would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and all the best as we head into 2024 and all the new exciting things it will bring!!
- Miigwetch!!

Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg Secondary Students

16 Students participated in the 2023 student success trip to the Toronto area. Students thoroughly enjoyed the many activities that were planned. The highlight being meeting and interacting with the Toronto Argonauts.



Netmizaaggamig hosted Marathon High school for a mini-Pow Wow in honour of National Truth and Reconciliation Day. Students were able to experience the culture by way of drumming and dance, a feast, elder interactions and plenty of sunshine at our beautiful Pow Wow grounds



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Shi-Lynn Cherneske (below) achieved the OSSD from St. Ignace High School. In September, Shi-Lynn is will be continuing her academic journey Psychology at Lakehead University.



Featured on the following slide is a fraction of Netmizaaggamig Student Success Stories. Congratulations to all of the graduates of 2023!

Netmizaaggamig Student Achievements. Featured is a small portion of our student successes. We are proud of all students!



Secret

Desmoulin (above) proudly earned her



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OSSD from Marathon High School in June 2023. Currently, she is working and preparing herself for post-secondary education in the field of Education.

In October 2023, Kayla Shaganash(below) successfully completed her Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from the University of Manitoba. She is currently pursuing her Master of Arts degree.



Bree Petten earned a Master's degree in Forensic Psychology from Arizona State University in 2022. While studying, she worked as a Residential Youth Worker for foster children with behavioral issues. Bree is now pursuing a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology and plans to further her education with a Ph.D. in Forensic Psychology.

Lands and Resources

- Environment and Climate Change Canada
 - 1km Indigenous Waterways Protected Area
 - Based on Community Consultation, NN identified 5 major



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rivers for protection:
White River,
Shabotik River,
Bremner River,
Kwinkwaga River and
the Pukaskwa River

- Joint application with Biigtigong Nishnaabeg and Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg to ECCC for protection
- Application was accepted, now work planning, negotiation agreement, and budget planning are being worked on now.
- **Annual Fish Derby**
 - Revenue neutral to NN
 - 2023 had over \$20,000 in sponsorships from our partners, plus prize donations!
 - Just over 100 registered participants!
 - Since 2018, the Lands and Resources Department has been successfully building up the Fish Derby, to deliver a bigger and better

Derby to you! Chi Miigwech for your continued support.

- **Exploration Agreement with First Class Metals**
 - Executed an Exploration Agreement with First Class Metals (FCM).
 - FCM has exemplified that collaborations between the Mining Industry, and Netmizaaggamig, lead to mutual success and benefits!
- **Staffing Update**
 - The position for Consultation Coordinator was vacant for a few months in 2023
 - Happy to announce Courtney Scarr will be joining our team as the Consultation Coordinator.
 - Courtney joins our team with years of field-work experience, and deep knowledge of MNRF and consultation experience.



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➤ Territorial Monitoring

- BFN/GRFN Members illegally and immorally poach **hundreds of spawning walleye** from White Lake in early Spring.

- NN Lands and Resources
Department has been engaged with MNRF Enforcement to prevent these atrocities to occur again, through ongoing efforts, meetings and strategy sessions.

- Trapline Allocation - We assisted a band member in the repatriation of their family hunting territory (trapline).

➤ Basil's Sick Moose

- Councillor Basil Sabourin and his son Sam harvested a bull moose [insert secret hunting area here], and while he was field dressing, he discovered an abundance of white/yellow

pus and abnormal flesh colour.

- Jesse went to the kill site to obtain flesh samples for the MNRF to send to a lab for analysis. No updates have been reported back as of Dec 7.

➤ Treaty Signing with BN

- Background
Context: History of territorial conflict between the two Nations and their members, disputes at high-school and in the bush
- NN and BN representatives, and their Chiefs, built the relationship from the ground up. This led to negotiating of a boundary agreement. Our relationship was so good that we were able to take it a step further and make a treaty with one another, codifying the agreement.
- Treaty has mutual aid and support clause in it; if a Nation found themselves in



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an extreme circumstances, the Chiefs could call on each other for support.

- We used our own diplomatic tools to sign the treaty: wampum, pipes, our own dating system, and our own diplomatic language.
- We also mutually acknowledged each other's Exclusive Title Areas (ETA) - BN recognized NN's ETA, and NN recognized BN's ETA.
- Provides Industrial certainty - proponents know who to consult and accommodate.
- Brings our communities closer together, which has been and will continue to be beneficial with title negotiations, sharing of knowledge and experts.



Health Services

- Medical Transportation
 - Implementation of electronic medical records when completing an application new medical travel for community members
 - Supporting the increased need to transport those with substance use/mental health reasons
 - Jordan's Principle Applications for Medical Transportation
- Home and Community Care
 - Elders Programming
 - Community Health programs
 - Meals on Wheels
 - Understanding our Food Systems
- Establishment of Mental Health Team
 - Mental Coordinator
 - Addictions Worker
 - Mental Health Worker
- Mental Health Programs



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- Wellness checks
- Ladies Group, Bush Tea Tuesdays
- Grief Training
- ASSIST (Suicide) Training for all staff
- Emergency Kits for Clients who have needs while being transported to detox or treatment
- **Response to Mental Health Crisis**
 - Wellness checks for those who are at high-risk
 - Lead the communication chain for the wellness checks
 - On call system during the active crisis phase
 - Acute Response Plan - Clarification of services available for the community by external community partners in the event of a crisis/suicide
- **Collaborations with External Partners**
- **Marathon Family Health Team - Primary Care**
 - Indigenous Engagement Committee, Expression of Interest - Satellite RAAM Clinic in Community, Increase in Primary Care Services in the community
- **North East Wellness and Crisis Team**
 - On the ground support in the community in the event of crisis, responsive to client needs in real-time, will attend situation in person, including the hospital. At client or hospitals request. Also, at our request.
- **Nokiiwin**
 - Housing the new Community Legal Worker position in the Health Centre, collaboration of services within the community.
- **Dilico**
 - Establishing a good working relationship with the Health portion of



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Dilico, seeking out ways to continue with collaborating such as use of the mobile unit, referral to mental health, & more communication in areas under health

Ontario Works 2023

- Over the past 2023 year, we have had great success with Ontario works clients moving into full time employment through different Mining organizations and community positions. We have had great success with students becoming Anishinabek Employment and Training Services students to learn different skills.
- On November 24th, 2023, we had our Mining Essentials graduation. There were 7 students that successfully graduated from the program.
- Currently we are doing an upgrading program to obtain a grade 12 diploma.
- We had 9 students complete chainsaw training this past August.

- We provided a life skills program in April 2023 that many have enjoyed participating in.
- The holiday train donated \$4000 to Ontario Works to go towards the food bank.
- We plan to offer a Small Engine Repair course in the early spring 2024.



Ontario works has participated in many events in Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg. Some of our most recent events were:

- During Moose camp week, Ontario Works made Bannock on a stick cooked over an open fire with



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elders and students along with chili.



provide a community breakfast.



- During Community Week, Ontario Works provided a lunch, put on Bingo for community members and had a crazy hats station for everyone.



Band Representative Program

“Our voices; speaking for our littlest ones”



- During Wellness Week, Ontario Works helped

- All Band Representatives are certified Life Skills Coaches qualifying them to provide



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evidence-based programming and work shops.

- Providing consistent programming within the community; Currently community kitchen and parents and tots. Providing caregivers with life skills, parenting strategies as well as socialization for the children.
- The Band Representative program is providing more prevention services and utilizing healthy family members and kinship when children need a “Place of safety”.
- The family services building is in the process of being built. The building will include an access room for children who are in care, allowing families to have meaningful connections.

NOTE: The Band Representatives do **NOT** work with/for the child welfare agency.



White Lake Limited Partnership A Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg Venture Highlights: 2023/24

- White Lake Limited Partnership:
- 100% owned by Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg
- General partner is White Lake Resources Corp. (also 100% NN)
- Governed by a board of directors appointed by the Council
- All 5 are NN band members
- Marlene Sabourin, Craig Cherneski, Alex Kwissiwa, Jessica McWatch, Stan Sabourin



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- Youth advisor - Bree Petten
- Elder advisor - Anna Deschamps
- Council Liaison - Deputy Chief Thurston Kwissiwa



- Currently employ approximately 65 people:
 - Contract/mine labour (Barrick, Barmenco, Ledcor, Silver Lake, Wesdome-new)
 - Janitorial Services (Barrick)
 - Wesdome Road Maintenance & Winter Operations
 - Waste management (Mobert, Barrick - soon at Wesdome)
 - Mining Essentials Program in Mobert (graduation fall 2023), to prepare people for future opportunities in mining



WLLP is hiring right now!

- Director - Operations and Construction
 - Manager- Retail & Fuel Operations
- AZ/DZ drivers and equipment operators (various locations)

For more details:

www.whitelakelp.ca

Highway Commercial Project Highlights

- To be constructed on NN reserve lands on Highway 17 North/West
- 250,000 Litres of Storage
- 3 Retail Fueling Dispensers (6 Car Positions)
- Daily Car Traffic Handling up to 50,000 L
- Three Truck Fueling Capacity (Hi Speed Diesel Pumps)



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- Diesel Cardlock System Supporting Unstaffed Fueling 24/7
- Full Integrated Fuel Monitoring System to TSSA Standards
- Fully Integrated POS
- Site Security Camera System and Monitoring
- Complete 4,800 sq ft Store Build Paving for 60% of site
- New Larger Entrance
- 40 Ft Pylon Sign and All Canopies
- Full Construction Management Team
- Continuing to advance for construction and commissioning in 2024
 - Business plan completed
 - Approximately \$2.6 million in financing in place - other funding applications in progress
 - Site planning & engineering substantially completed
 - Site cleared and grubbed
 - MTO traffic studies & access permit
- Screened fuel supply partners
- Establishing other supplier accounts (e.g. convenience store items, propane, etc.)
- Secured first bulk fuel supply customer (Barrick) + option to supply all Ledcor highway patrol yards
- Project had been anticipated to proceed in 2023 but delayed to 2024 due to a number of factors:
 - Project manager left mid-year due to long term illness
 - Funding applications took longer to advance through approvals (grants were needed to make it work)
 - Late change in original fuel supply partner (Gen7) due to legal issues with company owners/management
 - Long lead times for equipment (e.g. fuelling equipment) - 6-12 months for some items



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- Slow approvals by MTO, others for highway access

Plan for 2024:

➤ January - April

- Hire new Manager - Retail & Fuel Services
- Complete ordering of all equipment, fixtures
- Complete all financing/funding & banking arrangements (e.g. Visa, Mastercard)
- Complete all legal & regulatory approvals (e.g. TSSA for fuel)
- Finalize all supplier arrangements
- Detailed design for building

➤ May -- September

- Complete construction and commissioning of building, equipment and facilities
- Complete hiring and training of staff
- Order opening inventory
- Finalize corporate accounts/customers
- “Soft-opening” - expect September

- White Lake LP will be holding information & consultation meetings with leadership, membership & other stakeholders in the Winter/Spring of 2024

For more information:

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<https://whitelakelp.ca/>