



Quarterly Newsletter April to June 2023

Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg



Housing Department

This Department is led by Shawn Desmoulin.



The Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg Housing Department is happy to report a very productive 2022/ year!

This was a year of developing the Housing Department services, from the Administration to the Housing Crew.

A long-time housing team member, Clyde Jacobs, Housing Foreman, retired in 2022. We wish him a very happy retirement and best of wishes.



There are many new team members within the housing crew, the NN housing crew consists of the following:

1. Housing Crew
Supervisor/Foreman -Mark Foster
2. Housing Crew /Foreman – Joel Shire
3. Housing Crew Member-Dylan Turcotte
4. Crew Member -Leslie McWatch
5. Crew Member – Tyler Tookenay
6. Crew Member – Duston Fisher
7. Crew Member – Arnold Jacobs
8. Crew Member – Eric Desmoulin
9. Apprentice – Edgar Desmoulin
- 10.Independent Contractors: Jason Young & Johnny ONeil
- 11.Electrician: Jim Cederwall



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Some of the new builds include:

2 - 4 plexes (2 bedrooms per unit) already in the construction phase

2 - CLT (Cross laminated timber houses, 2 bedroom units) foundations in place, build will continue summer 2023. This build is a project through our apprenticeship program, apprentices, Edgar Desmoulin and Adam Bananish will be assisting with the builds.

3 new houses funded by CMHC (2 bedroom units) this build is still in the early planning and development phase. Target date for completion is summer 2024.

Funding was secured from ISC (Indigenous Services Canada) to undertake renovations of 10 unmortgaged homes. This project has begun and the target date for the completion of renovations on the 10 units is December 2023.

The NN Housing Department looks forward to the continued development of the department and services. We continue to work toward the improvement of housing services for Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg.

Tenant Relations Officer



Penny Cherneski

Hi, My Name, is Penny Cherneski, I am a Pic Mobert First Nations band member. I am please to have excepted the position of tenant relations officer with the Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg Housing Department.

My role is to advocate housing issues for the community members by, enforcing housing policy's.

My goal is to make sure each unit is properly taken care of by the tenants and properly maintained



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by the housing department. By educating tenants on how to properly care for their homes, making sure all minor repairs are reported in a timely manner, there fore eliminate high repair cost. I have also been hired to urge tenants to pay rent on time, help with arrears repayment plans and update housing agreements.

I love being back in the community, it is helping me get back in touch with my culture and I look forward to learning new things everyday, and I look forward to working with the community.

Miigwetch Penny Cherneski

Housing Foreman



The NN Housing Department welcomed Joel Shire onto the team in March 2023.

Joel is originally from Kitchener ON. He has been residing in Marathon ON for 12 yrs.

Joel brings to the NN Housing team, 36 yrs. years of experience in the construction field as well as owner/proprietor of his own Renovation/Contracting business for the last 23 years.

Joel enjoys working with NN Housing Department & Crew and finds it very fulfilling.

Welcome to the Team Joel!



Mark Foster (Housing Crew Supervisor/Foreman)

As most of you know, Mark was hired on with the housing department in November 2022.

Mark brings years of home renovation/contracting experience. Mark previously was owner/proprietor of a home renovation company in Alberta.



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The NN housing department welcomes Mark to the team! And values his contributions to the ongoing development of the NN Housing Crew and department.

NN Housing Department March 2023

Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg Housing Department secured funding to hire two interns for the 2022/23 fiscal year.

The internship program is funded by the CMHC and is specific to Indigenous Youth. (HIYY)Housing Internship for Indigenous Youth. The Internship began June 2022 and completed on March 31, 2023.



One of the intern positions worked directly with the housing maintenance crew as Housing Maintenance Assistant. This position was filled by Duston Fisher who provided assistance with the day-to-day housing repairs and maintenance.

Duston was an asset to the housing crew and worked well within the team setting.

The other HIYY intern position was designated to Housing Administration. This position was filled by Maria Sabourin as the Housing Administrative Assistant. Maria assisted with the day-to-day housing administrative duties which included, tracking work orders, developing notices, filing and scanning housing documents.

Maria worked well within an administrative capacity and developed a multitude of administrative skills which will be effective in future workplace settings.

The Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg Housing Committee and all departmental staff celebrate the accomplishments of the NN Housing Interns.

We are hoping to secure additional funding to hire 2 more interns for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.



From Left to Right: Thurston Kwissiwa (Housing Committee Chair), Duston Fisher



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(Housing Maintenance Assistant Intern), Lorrie Wynne (Housing Committee Member, Maria Sabourin (Housing Administrative Assistant Intern) Randal Desmoulin (Housing Committee Member), Shawn Desmoulin (Housing Manager)

The NN Housing Department and Housing Committee acknowledges the contributions of both interns and wish them every success in their future educational and employment plans.



Other Developments

Over the 2022/23 year, the NN Housing Committee was also busy developing their Terms of Reference and Developing the NN Housing Policy. These two fundamental documents are very close to being completed. The next steps are to obtain approval from NN Chief and Council.

Once approved the NN Housing Policy will be adhered to by the

Housing Committee, Housing Staff and NN Tenants. The new NN Housing Policy will be presented to tenants through a series of presentations.



NN Housing Department Annual Community Events

NN Housing Dept. looks forward to the annual events which allow the housing department to host activities, some of the events we participate in annually are:

1. National Indigenous Day June 21 every year -Housing



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department offers an activity that is related to utilizing wood products, building etc.

2. Xmas break sliding party
3. Other activities when the opportunity arises!



Mental Health

Canada Suicide Prevention 1-833-456-4566

Police: 1-888-310-1122

24/7 Mental Wellness & Crisis Team 1-866-209-9582