



# **HIAWATHA FIRST NATION**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**FISCAL 2023**

**MINO GIIZHIGAD**

**IT IS GOING TO BE A GOOD DAY**





# Hiawatha First Nation *Endaat* (“Home”)



*Pictured: Downtown Hiawatha (at ORRS)*



*Pictured: Hiawatha cemetery and fairgrounds*



*Pictured: Ice fishing on Rice Lake*



*Pictured: Fall colours looking across Rice Lake*



*Pictured: Hiawatha Line, looking east*



*Pictured: Serpent Mounds (Summer)*



*Pictured: Serpent Mounds (Winter)*



*Pictured: North shore of Rice Lake at Sopers Lane*

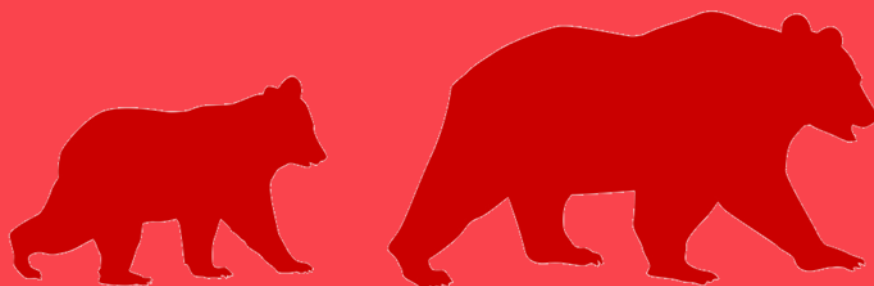
# Annual Report

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# LEADERSHIP REMARKS





# Message from Chief and Council



Aaniin Citizens,

I am pleased, on behalf of Council and all Staff at Hiawatha First Nation (HFN), to be able to provide you with the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2023.

It has been a busy year completing all the work projects we mentioned in the last Annual Report. The projects mentioned included, The Bijiinago Noongom Waabang (Williams Treaties Settlement Trust) which is now operational with \$51M in Trust. The Zhooniya Makak (Economic Development Corporation) has all Board Members in place, and are actively seeking a Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The water and fibre projects are now complete. The 3 homes on Soper's are completed and have been purchased by Citizens. The archeology work for the Senior's residences is well under way, and the resurfacing of Paudash Street has begun.

This year we purchased 251 Paudash Street (143 acres) and it is in the ATR processes, along with the 2 properties purchased in 2019 (289 Paudash St. - 26 acres) and in 2021 (57 Thompson Rd. - 123 acres). We continue working on the Land Code, including the creation of laws and processes. Work projects for this year include the build of 2 duplexes, completion of Paudash Street rehabilitation, and begin the build of the Senior's complex. We have hired new Staff, including our first Cultural Coordinator and look forward to ongoing cultural teachings and learning.

We were also blessed with the visit of our Ancestors from the Royal Collections Trust. The Ancestors arrived in April 2023 and are on exhibit "To Honour and Respect: Gifts from the Michi Saagiig Women to the Prince of Wales, 1860" at the Peterborough Museum and Archives until November 19, 2023. Please take the time to visit and talk with them.

We know there is still much work to do in all areas of Governance, Administration, Health & Social, Policing and we look forward to growing and continued successes in all programs and services within areas. We most certainly appreciate your continued support as we navigate this work for you, the Citizens and our First Nation. Chief and Council will continue to advocate politically at all levels of government for all HFN Citizens and our First Nation, as well as support our Staff who are key to our success as a Nation as we grow and expand our support and services.

We would like to take this time to say a huge Chi-Miigwetch to all Citizens, Staff, Family, Friends and Neighbours for helping to make Hiawatha First Nation such a great Community. We couldn't do it without all of you. Chief Laurie Carr, and HFN Council.

*Chief Laurie Carr*

Chief Laurie Carr

Chief Laurie Carr  
on behalf of Chief and Council

# Message from Director of Operations



Aaniin Citizens,

My name is Trisha Shearer and I am the Director of Operations (DOO) for Hiawatha First Nation (HFN). I am responsible for the overall integrity of the operations of HFN. The DOO must provide efficient and effective management and administration in accordance with the vision, goals and strategies of Hiawatha First Nation Council (HFNC), the requirements of the funders, HFN's policies and procedures and all relevant legislation as applicable to HFN. The DOO leads, directs and coordinates the department heads in the implementation and administration of the objectives, policies and programs as directed by the HFNC. The DOO provides effective strategic leadership and responsible management to all HFN staff and ensures an open and transparent atmosphere of collaboration and accountability.

During this year, we marked several key milestones as a Nation, a few of which have been noted below.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Replaced our IT server to a cloud based server
- Hired Urban Systems to complete an Organization Review
- Renewed Commercial Leases at 517 Hiawatha Line (2 years) and ORRS Restaurant (5 Years)
- Hired Loomex to develop an Emergency Response Action Plan
- Was able to increase Recreation Funding, offer off-territory Citizens with School supply funding and School activity funding

We are continuing to grow our capacity to serve our Citizens, whether it be through new facilities, programs, or resources.

If you have an idea for additional projects we can be tackling within our community, please don't hesitate to reach out.

---

Chi Miigwech,  
Trisha Shearer

*Trisha Shearer*

Trisha Shearer, Director of Operations

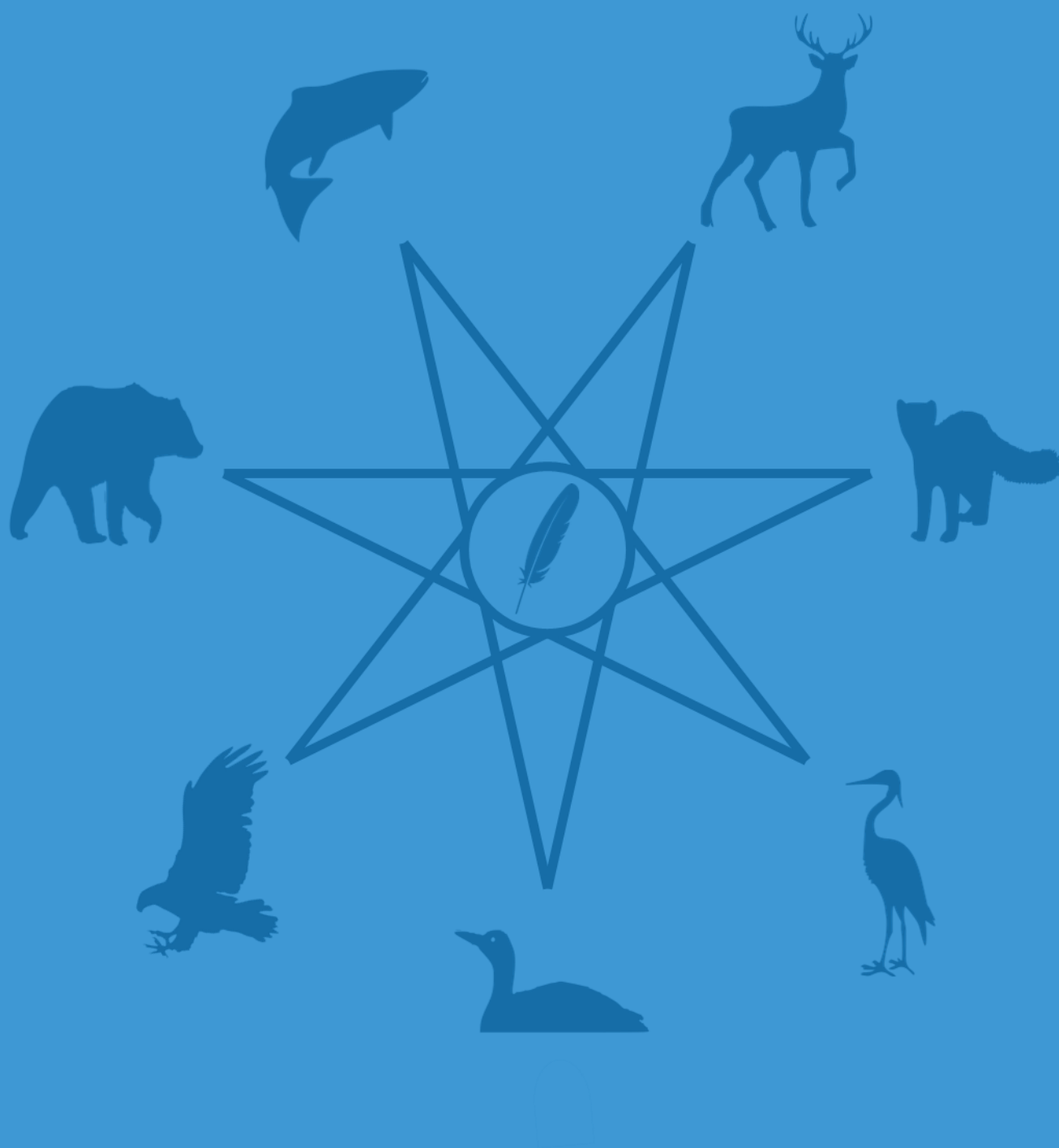
## Get Involved

- Attend Council Meetings
- Call the LIFE Centre
- Read the Newsletter
- Visit the Website
- Talk to HFN Staff
- Write to Chief and Council
- Run for Council
- Join a Committee
- Go to Community Events



***Pictured:*** Aerial of the L.I.F.E Services and Cultural Centre

# GOVERNANCE





# 2023 Elected Members Chief and Council

## Overview

Chief and Council members are elected once every 2 years under the Indian Act and First Nation Election Regulations. Each Hiawatha Councillor oversees a different portfolio of services for the Nation. The current term began on February 1, 2023 and will end on January 31, 2025.

## Hiawatha Vision

*We, the Michisaagiig of Hiawatha First Nation, are a vibrant, proud, independent and healthy people balanced in the richness of our culture and traditional way of life.*



**Laurie Carr**  
HFN Chief  
*Crane Clan Portfolio*



**Kirk Edwards**  
HFN Councillor  
*Loon Clan Portfolio*



**Katie Wilson**  
HFN Councillor  
*Hoof Clan Portfolio*



**Jeff Loucks**  
HFN Councillor  
*Fish Clan Portfolio*

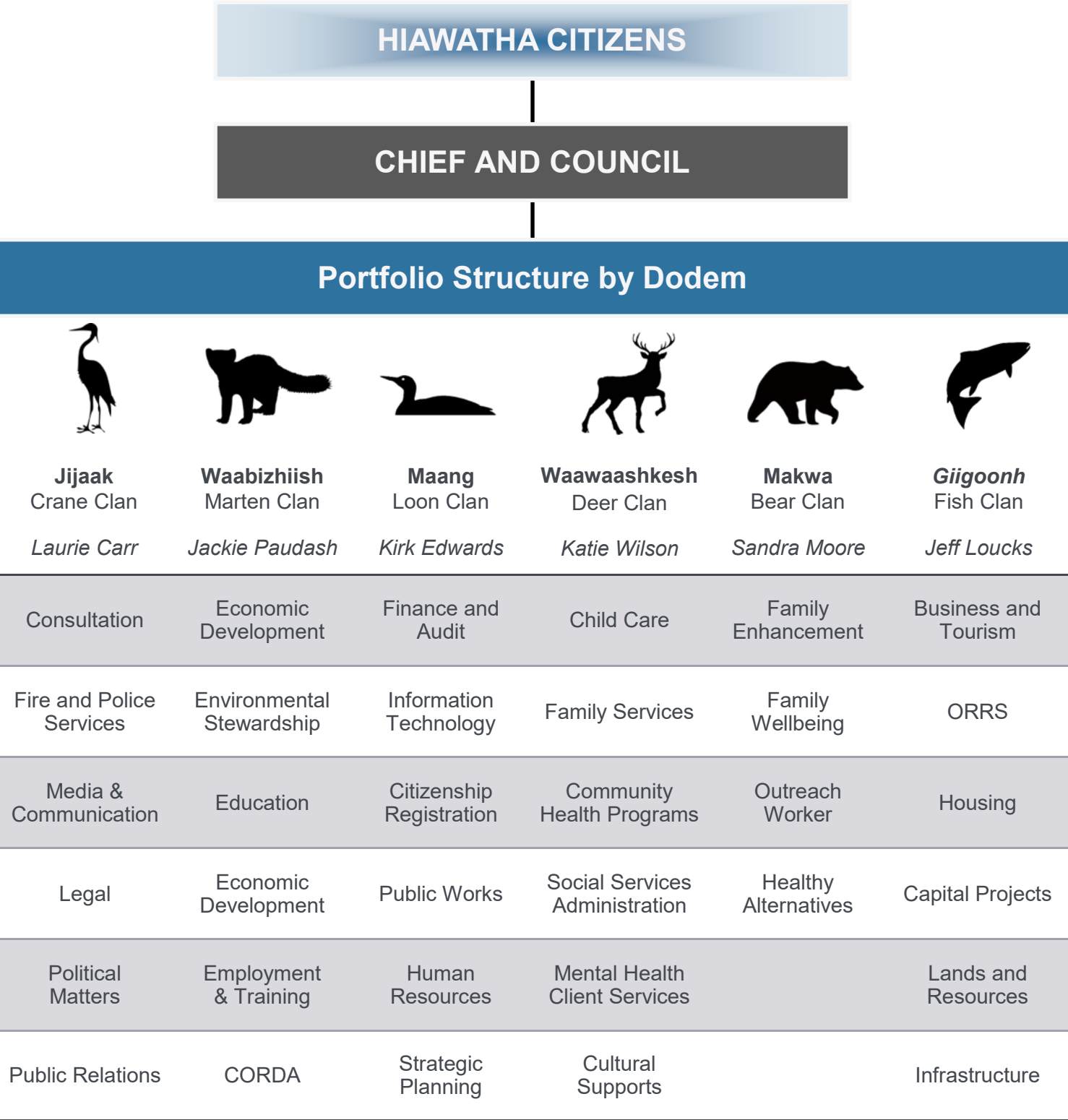


**Sandra Moore**  
HFN Councillor  
*Bear Clan Portfolio*

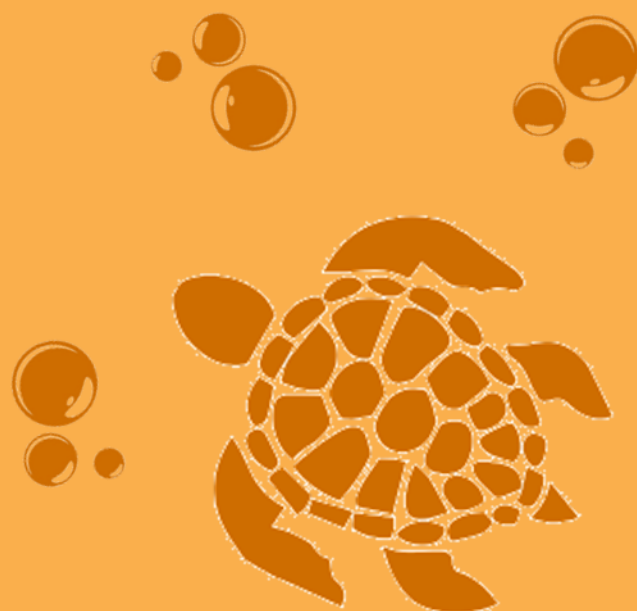


**Jackie Paudash**  
HFN Councillor  
*Marten Clan Portfolio*

# Hiawatha First Nation Organizational Chart



# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES





# Comprehensive Community Plan (2020)

## Current Strategic Directions

### IDENTITY

Hiawatha Citizens know in their very being that their Michisaagiig identity is a part of who they are and how they view themselves within the world. Their identity informs them and empowers them. They hold strong to their identity while being very proud to be planning the future of Hiawatha together with other Citizens of their Nation.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Culture and Language	The Michisaagiig teachings, as an essential part of the community, influences every decision made by Council, how Citizens conduct themselves, the values placed on the lives of Citizens, relationships and our role in the world.
2. Land	Hiawatha First Nation will have enough land for its Citizens to live at home – a safe space to practice traditions and ceremonies on their traditional territories. The land continues to serve us well; its use is community-focused.
3. Community	We are a respected, friendly, neighbourly and safe community: A good place for our families to grow up, and a place that looks after every part of our community.
4. Housing	Every Hiawatha Citizen has the opportunity to live on the territory. Our seniors are able to travel their whole life journey in the community with dignity and comfort.
5. Education	Hiawatha encourages all of our young people towards a bright, well-educated future, strengthened by our Anishinaabe teachings.
6. Health	Hiawatha First Nation is a healthy community with bodies and minds that serve us well, and are well cared for by Hiawatha services.

# Comprehensive Community Plan (2020)

## Current Strategic Directions (Cont'd)

7. Governance	Hiawatha First Nation asserts its sovereignty through the legislation and enforcement of our own laws. Our leaders are strong, transparent and accountable, developed from a young age. They can depend on predictable funding and investments that are aligned with our Anishinaabe values.
8. Administration	Our Administration is a highly competent, qualified, effective, efficient and motivated organization, accountable to results laid out in clear strategic and operational planning.
9. External Relations	Hiawatha First Nation has positive relationships with surrounding communities and sister First Nations, leading environmental protection in our neighbouring communities.
10. Economic Development	Hiawatha First Nation has a vibrant and diversified economy with many Hiawatha-owned businesses.



*Pictured: Farm field on Duncans Line*

# DEPARTMENT REPORTS





# BUSINESS AND DEVELOPMENT

Economic development aims to create economic stability, enhance capacity, and produce own source revenue. These outcomes will support the ongoing programs and lay the groundwork for further growth and development.

The Economic Development Officer helps HFN and its Citizens with funding proposals, business plans, and business advice for new or existing ventures.



**Jill Stevens**

Economic Development Officer

## Economic Development Goals

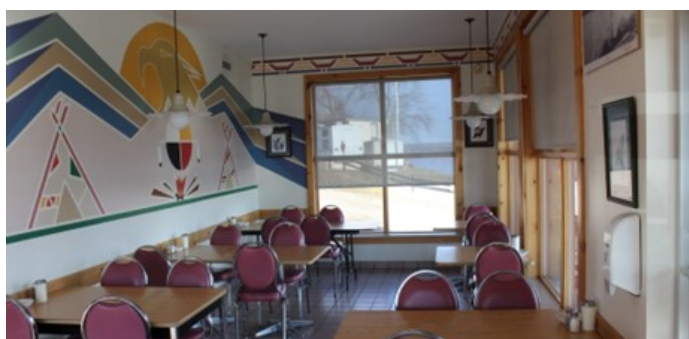
- |                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Increase Opportunity       | 2. Stop Economic Leakage      |
| 3. Anishinaabe values Prevail | 4. Develop Eco-Tourism        |
| 5. Grow Own-Source Revenues   | 6. On-And-Off Territory Focus |



*Pictured: Serpent Mounds Eco-Cabins (2005)*



*Pictured: Old Railroad Stop Convenience Store*



*Pictured: Old Railroad Stop Restaurant*

## Zhooniya Makak (“Money Basket”)

Zhooniyaa Makak – translated to English as “Money Basket” is the general partner and manager of Hiawatha’s for-profit business operation. It is in the final stages of being set-up to manage and grow Hiawatha’s own source revenues, both on- and off-reserve.

The goal is that Zhooniya Makak will increase Hiawatha’s profile within the business community in a way that honours and reflects our history, our culture, and our core values.

The focus in 2022 was setting up the Board of Directors, finalizing the foundational governance documents for the corporation, and starting the hiring process for the General Manager position.

# CAPITAL PROJECTS

The capital projects team is in charge of the construction, expansion, renovation, or replacement of new or existing infrastructure that serves the needs and interests of Hiawatha First Nation. Our team is responsible for these projects from the planning stage to the completion stage, and strives to deliver projects on time and within or below the allocated budget.

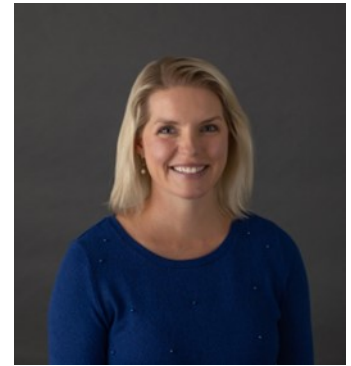
Our capital projects team works in close partnership with our Public Works department to develop and maintain Hiawatha's assets. Both teams will have a lot of work to do with new developments and improvements over the next couple of years.

## Clean Water Project

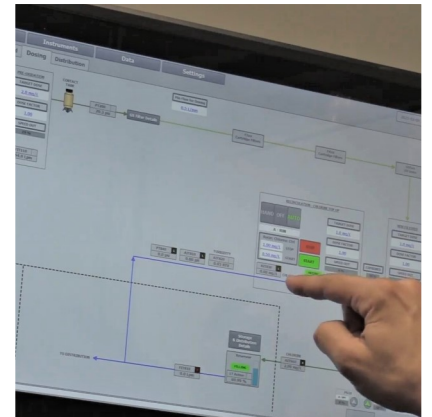
- Our water supply has had issues with quality, quantity, hardness, and taste for many years.
- We are connecting residents to the new water main, in addition to 20 point of entry (POE) water sheds.
- Our water treatment plant facility, storage tanks, office and garage are located at 717 Hiawatha Line.
- The project is expected to be fully complete by summer 2023.
- We have a Level II Certified Water Plant Operator and an Operator in Training (OIT) on staff to oversee and maintain the water plant operations.



*Pictured: Water Treatment Plant Facility*



**Hayley Vogler**  
Capital Projects Manager





# CAPITAL PROJECTS (CONT'D)

## Fiber Optic Internet Project

- Nexicom and Spring Grove have finished bringing Fibre Optic Service to Hiawatha, which is the best method of services available.
- Our download speeds are now up to 1000Mbps with the improvements.
- We appreciate the hard work of Nexicom and Spring Grove on this important project.

## Paudash Street Rehabilitation Project

- Paudash Street construction will start in spring 2023 and end by fall 2023.
- The project will upgrade drainage, culverts, and asphalt, widen shoulders, add a 2km multi-use walking path, and install solar pathway lighting.

## Elders Complex Project

- We are doing stage 3 archaeology at 17 Paudash, the future site of the 15 unit Elders apartment complex.
- We have finished the building designs, and will start the construction phase after the archaeology studies are done.

## L.I.F.E. Centre Solar Project

- We got funding from Green Inclusive Community Buildings (GICB) to put solar panels on the LIFE centre roof.
- The project is in progress and will be done in summer 2023.

## Hiawatha Church

- The church is undergoing major structural repairs and renovations.
- The project will include a new ramp and staircase, new flooring, and other updates.
- The project is expected to be done by fall 2023.

## Serpent Mounds

- The Capital Projects team will work on the Serpent Mounds project, with the support of our colleagues, and Chief & Council.
- The first step is to do archaeology studies at the site, with the help of HFN's Archaeology Liaison, Mandy.



*Pictured: Church undergoing repairs*



*Pictured: Installation of solar panels*

## Sample Partners





# CHILD CARE

## HIAWATHA CHILD CARE CENTRE

### Learning Enrichment for our Children of Tomorrow

The Child Care program is designed to enrich the learning experiences of children from six weeks to nine years of age. We intertwine our hands-on learning with Ojibwa culture and teachings, like the medicine wheel, to enrich the children's everyday activities.

We use Ministry of Education's learning pedagogy "How Does Learning Happen?" to best teach the children using four foundations: Belonging, Well-being, Engagement, and Expression. These values work seamlessly with the medicine wheel teachings of mental, spiritual, physical, and emotional wellbeing, and are a vision for all of our children's future potential so we foster these beliefs into all of our activities.

Our rooms are divided into effective learning centers that stimulate children's imagination, creativity and discovery. Children direct their own play. This way they learn a lot more, not only about what they are playing with but about themselves as well.

### Achievements for 2023

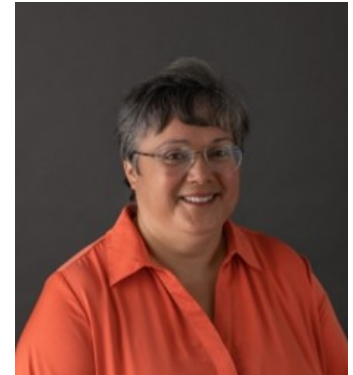
We have begun to look ahead as one of our funders sundown's at the end of March 2024 and how we will replace that funding. Indigenous Early Learning Frame Work is supposed to be stepping into to this void, but at this time we do not know what the funding will look like.

This past year we were able to reopen our Infant room and have a waiting list into 2025 for spaces.

We are also working towards building our supply staff as this is an on going issue for the childcare community in general and especially for rural centers.

We have had one of our supply staff enroll through distant learning for the ECE program through Candore College which will be a great boost for the center as we look towards the future.

- We have made land based learning a priority within the childcare and have begun working with our Cultural Coordinator to bring land based learning opportunities that the childcare can participate in.
- We were able to resume to learning centers pre-pandemic with returning the softer elements to our classrooms i.e. Pillows, carpets and dramatic play props.



**Patricia Hogan**  
Child Care Supervisor



*Pictured: Children's Playground*



*Pictured: Preschool Room*



*Pictured: School Age Room*

# CITIZENSHIP

The Citizenship Office deals with all matters and events related to Citizenship, working with Hiawatha Citizens and other First Nations Citizens. The office issues Certificates of Indian Status and blood quantum letters, and reports significant life events, such as transfers to other First Nations, marriage and divorce, and birth and death.

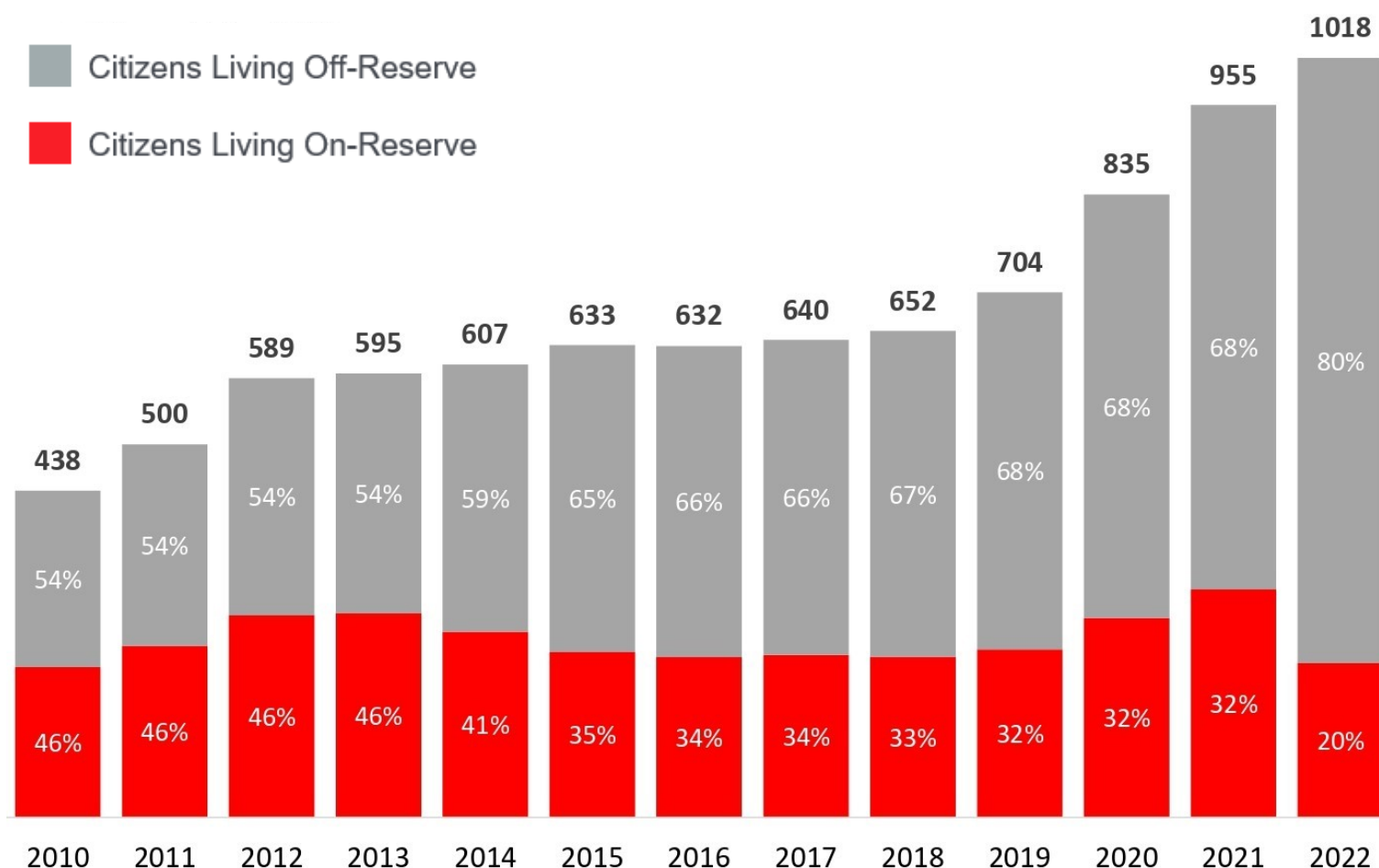
Hiawatha First Nation is a Section 11 First Nation now, which means we have an Indian Registration Administrator who works with the Federal Government and handles First Nation Citizenship under Federal Jurisdiction. We are working on our own Citizenship Code to take charge of our Citizenship under Section 10 of the Indian Act.



**Loni Thomson**  
Assistant to Council,  
Citizenship Clerk

## Citizenship Breakdown by Year

*As of December 31, 2022*



**Curious to understand how Citizenship works?**  
See [Appendix A – Citizenship](#) for more detailed information!

# CONSULTATION

Our mandate is to engage with governments and private sector proponents on land and resource matters that may affect the Treaty and inherent rights of our First Nation. Our work approach is grounded in developing strong relationships with our partners and working towards solutions that are mutually satisfactory.

Hiawatha works in collaboration with partners to ensure that development and construction projects proceed in a good way, ensuring that wildlife, habitat, air, and water tributaries are protected from contamination, and that the balanced eco-system / relationship we have with *Shkakimi Kwe* (Mother Earth) is not upset.

## Sample Projects and Partnerships

### Canadian Nuclear Labs

Clean up of old nuclear site near Port Granby, creation of Indigenous space for prayer and nature reserve with traditional plantings

### Ontario Power Generation

Consultation on fish habitats and spawning locations near the Ganaraska Dam, striving to move back to an all-natural planting list

### Trent University

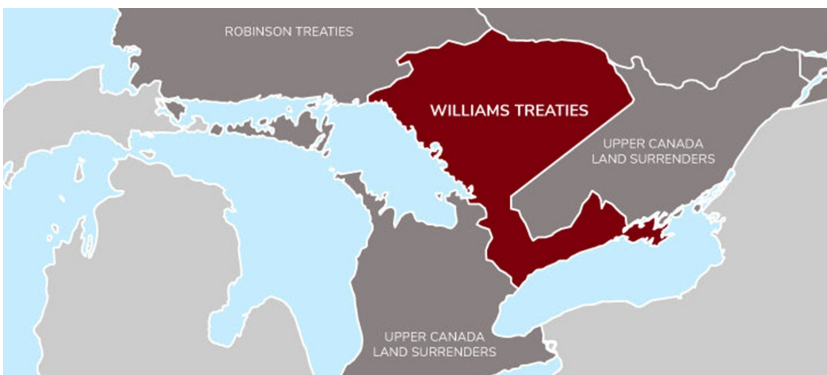
Mapping of local habitats and identification of species at risk, providing models and best practices for environmental stewardship

## Recent Partnerships



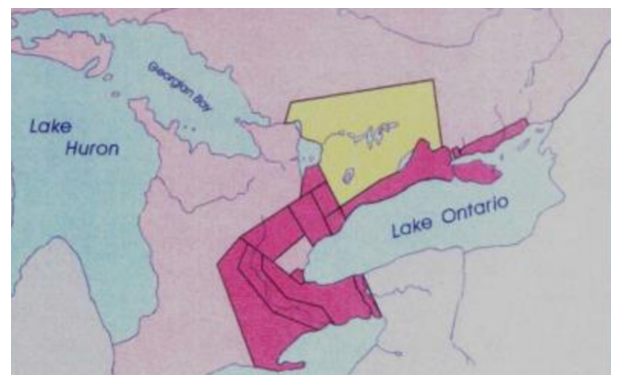
## Williams Treaties

7 First Nations Involved, including Hiawatha



## Treaty No. 20

Rice Lake Purchase



**Tom Cowie**  
Lands and Resource  
Consultant



**Sean Davison**  
Lands and Resource  
Consultant

If you have a project, activity, or decision that may have a significant impact on the land and resources, we encourage you to reach out at [consultation@hiawathafn.ca](mailto:consultation@hiawathafn.ca).

# EDUCATION

The Education Department provides Academic and Advocacy support for Elementary, Secondary and Post-Secondary as well as financial support to both on and off-territory students. Currently, there is only 1 staff, the Education Counsellor, who works with the local school boards and schools to ensure students and families are equipped with the proper supports needed to be successful at school. The education department holds a seat with KPR Indigenous Education, PVNC Indigenous Education and the AIAI Education Committee.



**Karrie MacMurray**  
Education Counsellor

Life long learning is the overarching theme, which connects the education programs of Elementary, Secondary, and Post-Secondary. Over the 2022/23 fiscal, we had success in the areas of students passing their grade making them eligible to move into the next grade, and we had many on and off-territory graduates including those who submitted their names to be on the Graduate Wall of Names in our July 2023 addition of our Community Newsletter. We also had 3 successful recipients for our Annual Graduate Level studies Bursary: Chad Cowie, Carmen Craig and John Ewing.

## Achievements

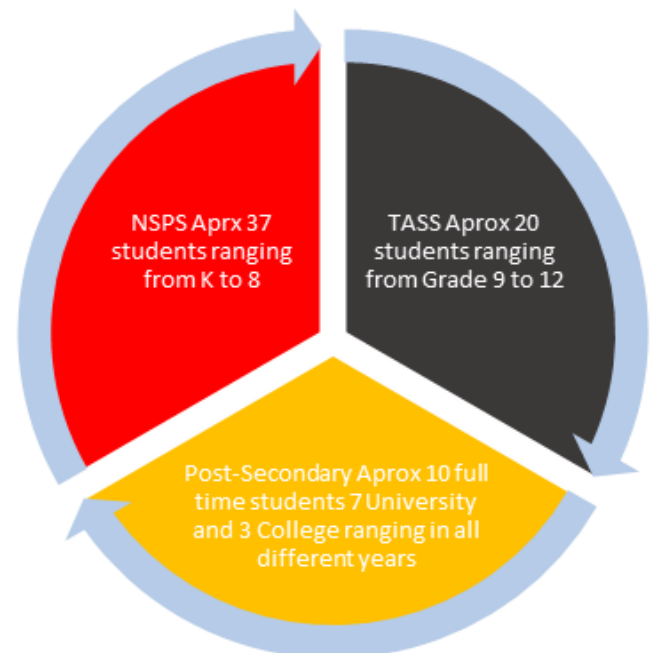
### Post-Secondary Wait List Mature Students

- 50 letters were sent out in Feb/Mar 2023
- 6 people reached out who are working on their post-secondary goals
- They are wished success in their post-secondary journey
- This opportunity may be offered again to others on the list if more funding is received in Post-Secondary

### Landbase and On-the-land Learning Blending Culture, Language, Education and Lands

- The Education Department received funding from AIAI for landbase learning – and a financial partnership was created with Lands and the Cultural Coordinator for a project they had in mind.
- They hosted a day of Ice Fishing and a day to learn. They were phenomenal in their delivery and the videos are on our website! In 23/24 fiscal, we will advocate to AIAI for funding for more opportunities like this.

## Students Funded 22/23 School Year



## Future Plans

Retain Tutor Doctor for after hours academic support and continue to look at creating Education Support Worker position.



# EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

The Employment & Training department runs a variety of programs that give opportunities for Citizens to gain work experience and enhance their employability. The department offers workshops on various topics, one-on-one supports for individual needs, and also helps individuals purchase training courses, develop their resume, and prepare for interviews.

## Summer Student Employment

The program offers early work opportunities to Hiawatha First Nation youth during the summer months, enabling first-time employees to gain relevant work experience and acquire good work ethics. The program also helps to improve and enhance the employability skills of returning summer student employees who have previous work experience.

## Employment Opportunities

Our organization has been hiring new employees to address the needs of our growing citizenship. We are also interested in new ideas, programs, and services we can offer to our Citizens. If you have an idea, or would like to work for Hiawatha, please get in touch. For current opportunities, see the Employment Opportunities section of the website, or visit the LIFE Centre.

## Achievements

2022–2023 was a very successful year, where we were able to help Citizens with accessing a broad range of training and employment opportunities.

Our maintenance crew and Health and Safety team received 3 days of training in Working at Heights, Lockout Tag out Procedures and were certified and recertified on boom lifts. Staff and community Citizens were also trained in 2 chainsaw courses that occurred. We are proud to say that every individual who was assisted by our team this year was successful in obtaining meaningful employment.

We are also happy to report that during the fiscal we received enough funding to support 16 summer student positions.

Hiawatha also received a community grant from Kagita Mikam for a Community Project. It was decided to invest dollars into the residence at 289 Paudash St. thus giving the First Nation another residence for its Citizens.



**Zach Friar**  
Human Resources  
Coordinator



**Lorne Paudash**  
Employment &  
Training Officer

### HFN Staff Composition\*

HFN Citizens	44
Other FN Members	5
Non-Status Individuals	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>

\*Permanent full-time

# HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES



*Pictured: Hiawatha L.I.F.E. Services Centre at 431 Hiawatha Line*

## Department Overview

Hiawatha Health and Social Services (H&SS) is committed to assisting Citizens through the delivery of a wide range of programs and services. Our activities are designed to support positive outcomes for Citizen's physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health and wellness.

At the beginning of the new year we sent out a survey to all Citizens to acquire feedback and assess needs to modify the programming and services we offer. We continue to modify programming that reflect the needs identified by Citizens.

We are always looking to expand and improve upon the services provided, and as the Manager, I will always welcome direct feedback. I encourage individuals to reach out and share ideas for change, improvement, and of course recognition.



**Tina Howard**  
H&SS Manager

## Area 1: Social Services

### Highlights

- We successfully launched a case management software for the Wellbeing Team, along with the Family Enhancement Worker. This initiative has been critical to ensuring the department is delivering effectively on OCAP principals.
- Hosted an Open House for the Wellbeing Centre at 123 Paudash Street to display the extensive renovations and allow community to meet all of the support staff working out of the space, along with the referral agencies attached to the services.
- Hiawatha First Nation's First Annual PRIDE week was successfully initiated and we are excited to continue to explore opportunities to continue to support our 2SLGBTQI+ community. Staff attended multiple training opportunities to learn more and understand the process of decolonizing gender.
- Transitioned the Lower Hall in the Wellbeing Being Centre into a designated programming space, to augment storage and align with multiple capital funding applications pending that seek to modernize

# HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

## Area 1: Social Services (Cont'd)

### Highlights

- We used restorative justice funding from AIAI to explore improving Hiawatha First Nation's restorative justice capacity. This involved working more with the Indigenous Peoples Court (IPC) in Peterborough, which we plan to keep developing our relationship with.
- We keep working with Fogler Rubino LLP on creating a child welfare law that reflects the community's needs, this will take several years.
- We welcomed our new Cultural Coordinator, this is a new position that the community said was a critical need in the Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP). The Cultural Coordinator is in charge of providing education and training about cultural practices, teachings, ceremonies and traditions to children, youth, families, caregivers, community citizens, HFN Council, staff, and other community service providers so they can use them in their daily practices. The Cultural Coordinator works with all departments across the organization as a resource to all staff.

## Area 2: Mental Health Services

Our mental health program staff provide short-term counselling, peer support, advocacy, resources, and referrals for clients, and are focused on meeting the unique needs of each individual. We have also collaborated with external agencies to deliver holistic mental health service to Citizens.

### Highlights

- Allyson Lucas, Registered Psychotherapist, has expanded her services offered at the Wellbeing Services Centre to include an additional full day of counselling appointments, dedicated specifically to youth.
- Established an Addictions Wellness Circle in partnership with an addictions counsellor to provide a space for people to share and receive supports. The counsellor approaches the circle with a theme each session that can benefit the individuals in their sobriety



*Pictured: 123 Paudash Street*



*Pictured: Building teaching lodge*



*Pictured: Waiting area outside counselling room*



# HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

## Area 3: Health and Community Services

Our approach to health considers the multidimensional aspects of achieving wellness. Our efforts strive towards recognizing and supporting the whole person, whether it be physical, mental, social, or spiritual.

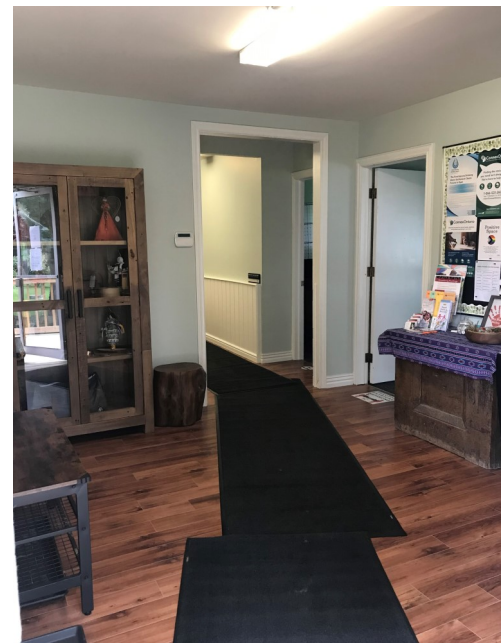
We significantly improved our health capabilities this year, opening and offering new facilities and equipment to better serve our community.

### Highlights

- Invested in constructing a treatment room at the Wellbeing Centre for Citizens who wish to access nursing services in that space.
- Completely renovated the kitchen attached to the Elder's Room at the L.I.F.E Services Centre to deliver smaller client -focused nutrition and kitchen programming.
- Modified the job description for the Home and Community Care Labourer to allow for more program delivery related work duties.
- Invested in a hitch-mount wheelchair system to attach to our Community Health Nurse's van to support transporting clients with mobility challenges to medical appointments.
- Began working with a new dietician to provide group-based nutrition services to Hiawatha First Nation Citizens.
- We hosted our Annual Health Fair in the fall, the first time hosting the event since the beginning of the pandemic. Over the past three years we have increased the external agencies that the department collaborates with, as such this was a major event. Many service providers were eager to have the opportunity to engage with Citizens directly at this event and raise awareness about the services they provide.
- Invested in a new expansive playground structure to be located at the L.I.F.E Services Centre. Currently working with engineers on assessing the site and preparing for delivery and install.
- Invested in food security, inflation supports and meal delivery for those clients at risk.



***Pictured:** New treatment room at Wellbeing Services Centre*



***Pictured:** Renovated entrance to the Wellbeing Services Centre*



# HOUSING

Hiawatha First Nation has administered a housing program since 1968. The housing program has evolved over the years to meet the changing needs of community Citizens.

We support our Citizens by providing loans, grants and other assistance to build and maintain their homes. In addition, our rental program provides affordable units to Citizens who wish to live on reserve or Citizens, that may otherwise lack the resources to build their own home.

More recently, the *HFN Market Based Housing Program* has been developed in conjunction with First Nations Market Housing Fund. This program has complemented our existing housing program, allowing eligible Citizens to secure loans to build, renovate, purchase or refinance homes on HFN reserve land.



**Lisa Cowie**  
Housing Coordinator

## Program Updates

- Secured \$1.032M in funding towards the cost of building 2 rental duplexes on Sopers Lane.
- Secured \$46K in funding to replace windows at the 6 plex and renovate the bathroom at the rental house at 124 Paudash Street.
- Secured funding to hire a Housing Intern on a 1 year contract.
- Entered into a new On-Reserve Housing Program with BMO.

## New Construction

This year we began building 2 duplexes on Sopers Lane which will provide 4 additional rental units to our Citizens. Construction began in April 2023 and will be completed in the winter of 2023/24.

We are actively looking at a few longer-term housing solutions for our community, such as constructing a new small subdivision, more duplexes, or an area of tiny-homes.

## Hiawatha-Owned Residences

### 6 Plex

167 Sopers Lane

### 5 Plex

144 Paudash St.

### 3 Houses

Various Addresses

### 4 Units

Under Construction

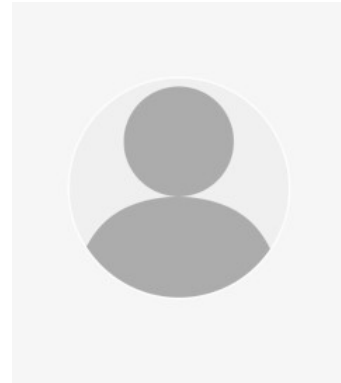


**Pictured:** Hiawatha 6-Plex, 167 Sopers Lane

# PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works and Capital Projects departments work closely together to develop and maintain Hiawatha's physical assets. Their activities cover all public buildings, spaces, and undeveloped property.

From Public Works to Custodial Services, to Fire and Police, our department oversees all infrastructure-related activities. Our team stays very busy with its broad maintenance routine, but is frequently asked to support the administration of other activities within the First Nation such as the HFN Annual Powwow.



**Clem Carr**  
Public Works Lead

## Accomplishments

- Installed waterline at Serpent Mounds Park for year-round use by employees
- Fixed grading issues at Child Care
- Worked with Housing department and fully renovated Apt # 5 at 144 Paudash Street
- Confined space repair work at L.I.F.E. Services & Cultural Centre
- Set-up and cleanup for Powwow year after damage cause by the big storm

## Highlights

- Purchased 2 new lawnmowers, a heavy duty 12T trailer to tow our heavy equipment, and a new skidsteer
- Worked on repairing the foundation at the Serpent Mounds Park cottage
- Wrote draft copy of Confined Space program
- Public Works staff have completed numerous training programs related to current roles (e.g. Chainsaw, confined space, working at height, etc.)



*Pictured: Public Works Facility, 117 Sopers Lane*



*Pictured: Cultural Centre (Mezzanine Level)*

# LANDS

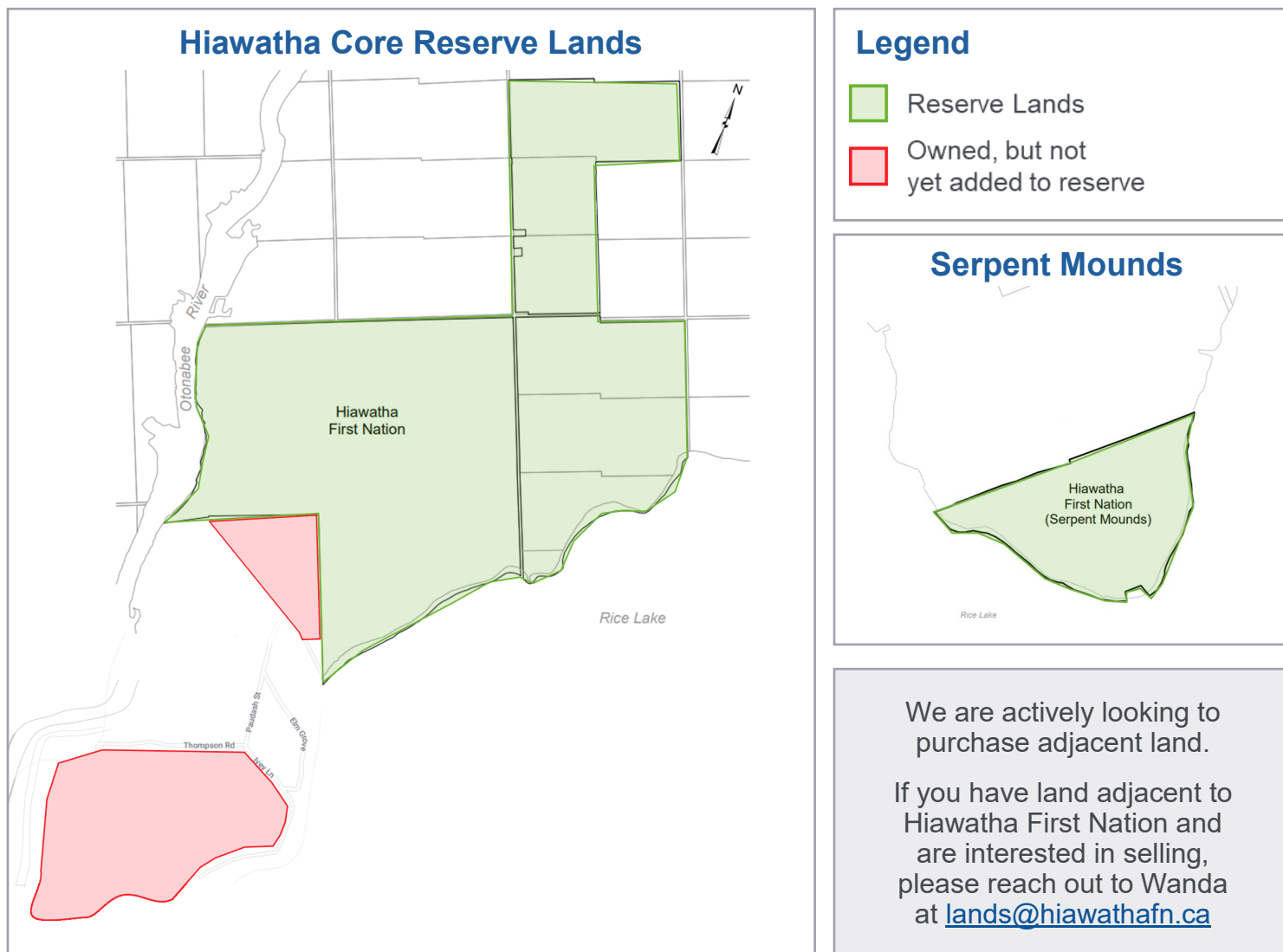
Hiawatha First Nation is located on the north shore of Rice Lake, east of the Otonabee River. The First Nation consists of approximately 2145 acres of land, of which 1523 are held under Certificates of Allocation. Hiawatha First Nation is made up of three tenure areas consisting of: primary reserve land, Serpent Mounds Park, and Islands in the Trent.

The Lands Department has been operating under the First Nation Management Act as of August 1, 2021. Under our Land Code we are able to deal with transactions much more expediently. We now have the ability to register documents in a more timely fashion which is a benefit to our Citizens and we have successfully developed and registered our first Land Law under our Land Code.

The Lands Department has a staff of three. Jill Foster is now Full-time and Georgette Howard will be taking over the program when Wanda retires in October.



**Wanda McGonigle**  
Lands Officer





# LANDS (CONT'D)

## Land Use Plan

We are almost done with the Land Use Plan, which we have been working on for about a year. We have had these engagement sessions so far:

- October 18, 2022: Elders/Youth/Community
- March 21, 2023: Community/Elders Lunch

The next session will be on June 27th in the evening, and there will also be an open house that day. After we finish the Land Use Plan, we will start working on the Environmental Management Plan, which is related to it.

## Land Based Learning

We hosted a Land Based Learning event in February which was quite successful through a collaboration with the Cultural Wellness Worker. We had ice fishing on day one and a traditional smoked meat demonstration took place the following day. The entire event was filmed including drone footage as well. Plans are underway to offer seasonal Land Based Learning in the future.



*Pictured: Traditional smoked meat demonstration*



*Pictured: Ice fishing land based learning*

## Wills And Estates

A Wills and Estates information session was provided to the community in April 2023. Georgette and Jill attended a Wills and Estates management workshop provided by the Ontario Aboriginal Land Association and were provided with resources to assist our Citizens with Estates.

## ATR

We are working with our Legal Counsel to convert three properties into Reserve Status. These are 251 Paudash (Wrights Farm), 289 Paudash (Monks property), and 57 Thompson Road.

## Leasing

We handle a lot of leasing work. Jill Foster is our go-to person for leasing matters. She has become very skilled and professional in leasing and has built a great relationship with both the Locatees and the Lessees.

## ILH - Individual Land Holdings

This area has seen a lot of activity from Citizens who are severing and transferring land for housing or leasing purposes. We are conducting surveys on the Territory and getting approvals as needed. We are also working to fix a problem of duplicate Lot Numbers that we found out recently.



# OLD RAILROAD STOP (ORRS)

The Old Railroad Stop (ORRS) is a full service gas bar, restaurant, and convenience store located on Rice Lake, put into operation in 2002 with the primary objective of helping to employ and train Hiawatha Citizens.

In 2012, design plans were created for an expansion to the gas station, and creation of retail space in a log cabin. This was completed by 2013.

## Founding Principles

- 1 Provide employment and training opportunities for Citizens, especially those who are students
- 2 Increase own-source revenues by providing a greater number of goods and services to Citizens and visitors
- 3 Successfully profit in order to support the provision of other programs, supports, and services to Citizens



**JD Monette**  
ORRS Manager



## Department Activity

- We now sell car parts & tires! Come and see our team for a free quote. We promise you will love the quality of the product and our prices! (Loyalty Points included)
- During the past year alone, we've added 10 new Indigenous-Owned businesses to our product list. Some of these are: Ojibway Natural, Shades of Gray Pet Treats, Satya Organics, Cheekbone, Wildcraft, Birch Bark Coffee, etc. We would like this list to continue growing!
- Looking ahead we want to start an ORRS online store which will allow anyone to order products from us and even have it delivered right to their front doorstep!



*Pictured: Old Railroad Stop from the boat dock*

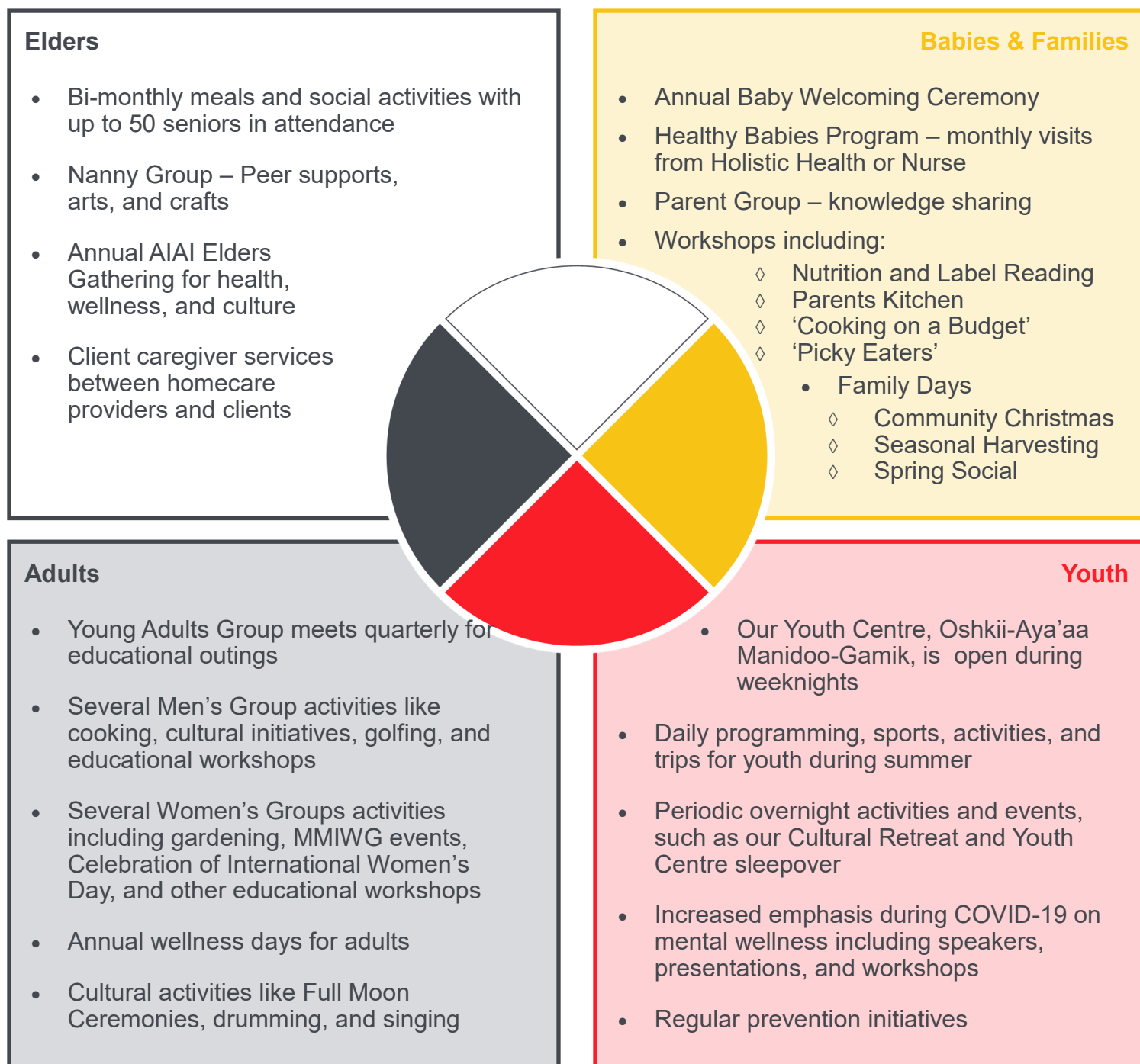


*Pictured: Old Railroad Stop convenience store*

Our department is frequently looking to hire new staff to meet growing demand!  
If you are looking at new career opportunities, please email [orrsmanager@hiawathafn.ca](mailto:orrsmanager@hiawathafn.ca)

# PROGRAMMING

Hiawatha prides itself on its community engagement, offering many program activities for its Citizens to participate in, all of which can be found in the monthly community newsletter. These programs have been shown to have positive impacts on the mental health and wellbeing of our Citizens, and are directed at restoring our connection with our culture.





# Serpent Mounds

## Site Overview

Serpent Mounds Park is a sacred and historic site of Hiawatha First Nation, with evidence of occupation and use dating back to 58 B.C.

It is here that archaeologists discovered that ancient Native people gathered in large settlements around the lake to camp, hunt, fish, collect freshwater mussels, and harvest the abundant wild rice crops which once inhabited Rice Lake.

The assemblage of artifacts provides extensive information on the habitation, rituals and culture of the site and represents the most complete picture of Point Peninsula life.



*Pictured: Serpent Mounds*



*Pictured: Serpent Mounds Park under a blanket of snow*

## Activity Update

In April 2020, MacLeod Farley completed a Serpent Mounds Park revitalization plan with 3 key areas of focus. Unfortunately, our progress was set back with the derecho that happened in May 2022, but we are lucky to have a very hardworking team. There is still a fair bit of work to do before the park can be reopened, but we are on track to have it reopened within the next couple years.

Site Protection	Respect of the sacred mounds and the archaeological site
Gathering Place	Cultural revitalization, education, and environmental responsibility
Revenue Generation	Campsite and cabin rentals, cultural and fishing tours



*Pictured: Serpent Mounds team working on park revitalization*



# LOOKING AHEAD



# Hiawatha First Nation

## Comprehensive Community Plan

### VISION STATEMENT

We, the Michisaagiig of Hiawatha First Nation, are a vibrant, proud, independent and healthy people balanced in the richness of our culture and traditional way of life.

<b>Culture and Language</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed construction of Community Cultural Centre</li> <li>Working on increasing land-based learning opportunities</li> <li>Language and culture lessons with Mississauga Nation</li> <li>Partnerships and collaboration with Williams Treaties Nations and Mississauga Nation communities</li> </ul>
<b>Land</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ratification of Land Code</li> <li>Purchased 125 Acres at Thompson Road</li> <li>Purchased 25 Acres at 289 Paudash Street</li> <li>Working through adding new land acquisitions to reserve</li> </ul>
<b>Community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paudash Street improvements for safety</li> </ul>
<b>Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sale of 2 family-oriented homes</li> <li>Work underway to construct a seniors residence</li> <li>Evaluating longer term solutions within the business of housing</li> </ul>
<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working to rectify gaps from COVID-19</li> </ul>
<b>Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Childcare facility expansion</li> <li>Significant expansion of LIFE services and supports</li> </ul>
<b>Governance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing Election Code and Citizenship Code</li> <li>Creating a Land Use Plan, Infrastructure Master Plan, and Environmental Stewardship Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Administration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New offices to support our growing workforce</li> <li>Significant strategic planning underway, 5-year operation plan, service gap analysis, departmental review</li> </ul>
<b>External Relations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with the Chiefs of Ontario and Assembly of First Nations</li> <li>Active consultation department on local projects</li> </ul>
<b>Economic Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our EDC, is incubating and getting of the ground</li> <li>ORRS expanding its product and service offering</li> <li>Working to reopen Serpent Mounds in the next couple years</li> <li>BNW Trust is functional to manage our investments</li> </ul>

# FINANCIAL REPORTS





# Independent Auditors Report & Summary Financial Statements



**Baker Tilly KDN LLP**  
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Canada K9J 2V4

**D:** 705.742.3418  
**F:** 705.742.9775

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## Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Hiawatha First Nation and its local boards (the First Nation), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at March 31, 2023, the consolidated statements of operations and accumulated surplus, remeasurement gains and losses, change in net financial assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of the First Nation as at March 31, 2023, and the results of its consolidated operations and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the First Nation in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the consolidated financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

*Baker Tilly KDN LLP*

Chartered Professional Accountants  
Licensed Public Accountants

Peterborough, Ontario  
September 21, 2023

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*Citizens can obtain a copy of the complete audited financial statements through the Citizen's section of the web-site or upon request at the Administration office during regular business hours.*

# Hiawatha First Nation

## Statement of Financial Position


### HIAWATHA FIRST NATION

#### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

At March 31, 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
<b>FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>		
Cash (note 3)	8,711,054	10,585,099
Investments (note 4)	96,855,100	95,177,899
Due from Government and other Government organizations (note 6)	1,676,746	1,066,504
Other accounts receivable	254,882	191,569
Inventory for resale (note 5)	414,847	382,752
Receivable from First Nation members (note 7)	2,420,622	1,631,142
<b>TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>	<b>110,333,251</b>	<b>109,034,965</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Operating loan (note 8)	-	20,050,000
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 9)	3,664,008	1,869,652
Due to Government and other Government organizations (note 10)	1,148,640	1,915,918
Deferred revenue (note 15)	6,359,219	5,788,388
Bank loan (note 8)	19,800,000	-
Employee future benefits (note 16)	279,000	242,800
Asset retirement obligation (note 17)	770,000	-
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>32,020,867</b>	<b>29,866,758</b>
<b>NET FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>	<b>78,312,384</b>	<b>79,168,207</b>
<b>NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>		
Tangible capital assets (schedule 1)	39,592,185	31,634,495
Prepaid expenses (note 11)	127,158	86,677
<b>TOTAL NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>	<b>39,719,343</b>	<b>31,721,172</b>
Accumulated surplus (note 18)	114,375,602	110,889,379
Accumulated remeasurement gains	3,656,125	-
	<b>118,031,727</b>	<b>110,889,379</b>

Approved on behalf of the members:

 Chief

 Councillor

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements. Citizens can obtain a copy of the full audited financial statements and the accompanying notes through the Citizen's section of the website or upon request at the Administration office during regular business hours.

# Hiawatha First Nation

## Statement of Operations

### HIAWATHA FIRST NATION

#### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND ACCUMULATED SURPLUS

For the Year Ended March 31, 2023

	Budget 2023 \$ (Unaudited)	Actual 2023 \$	Actual 2022 \$
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) (notes 19 and 20)	7,737,010	8,431,436	5,806,706
Federal Government other (note 20)	8,360,367	2,287,030	1,174,533
Province of Ontario (note 20)	975,145	2,601,117	1,917,130
Ontario First Nations Limited Partnership	966,351	655,980	441,725
Old Railroad Stop	13,813,607	17,534,365	10,414,337
Investment income	1,250,000	1,777,313	5,703,791
Other	2,640,815	2,649,237	1,812,757
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>35,743,295</b>	<b>35,936,478</b>	<b>27,270,979</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Administration	2,696,740	8,189,061	13,357,537
Community operations	1,298,085	1,173,236	1,520,759
Economic development	160,192	247,375	164,939
Education	1,543,480	1,320,362	740,575
Land management	322,229	563,918	327,770
Social development	2,617,164	3,388,660	2,636,246
Old Railroad Stop	13,671,359	17,520,114	10,420,352
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>22,309,249</b>	<b>32,402,726</b>	<b>29,168,178</b>
<b>ANNUAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b><u>13,434,046</u></b>	<b>3,533,752</b>	<b>(1,897,199)</b>
<b>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS - beginning of year</b>		<b>110,889,379</b>	<b>112,786,578</b>
<b>ADJUSTMENT ON ADOPTION OF THE ASSET RETIREMENT OBLIGATION STANDARD</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(47,529)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS - beginning of year, as restated</b>		<b>110,841,850</b>	<b>112,786,578</b>
<b>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS - end of year</b>		<b>114,375,602</b>	<b>110,889,379</b>

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# Hiawatha First Nation

## Notes to Financial Statements

### 1. DISCLAIMER

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements. Citizens can obtain a copy of the full audited financial statements and the accompanying notes through the Citizen's section of the website or upon request at the Administration office during regular business hours.

### 2. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with standards in the Chartered Professional Accountants Canada Public Sector Accounting (PSA) Handbook.

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# APPENDICIES



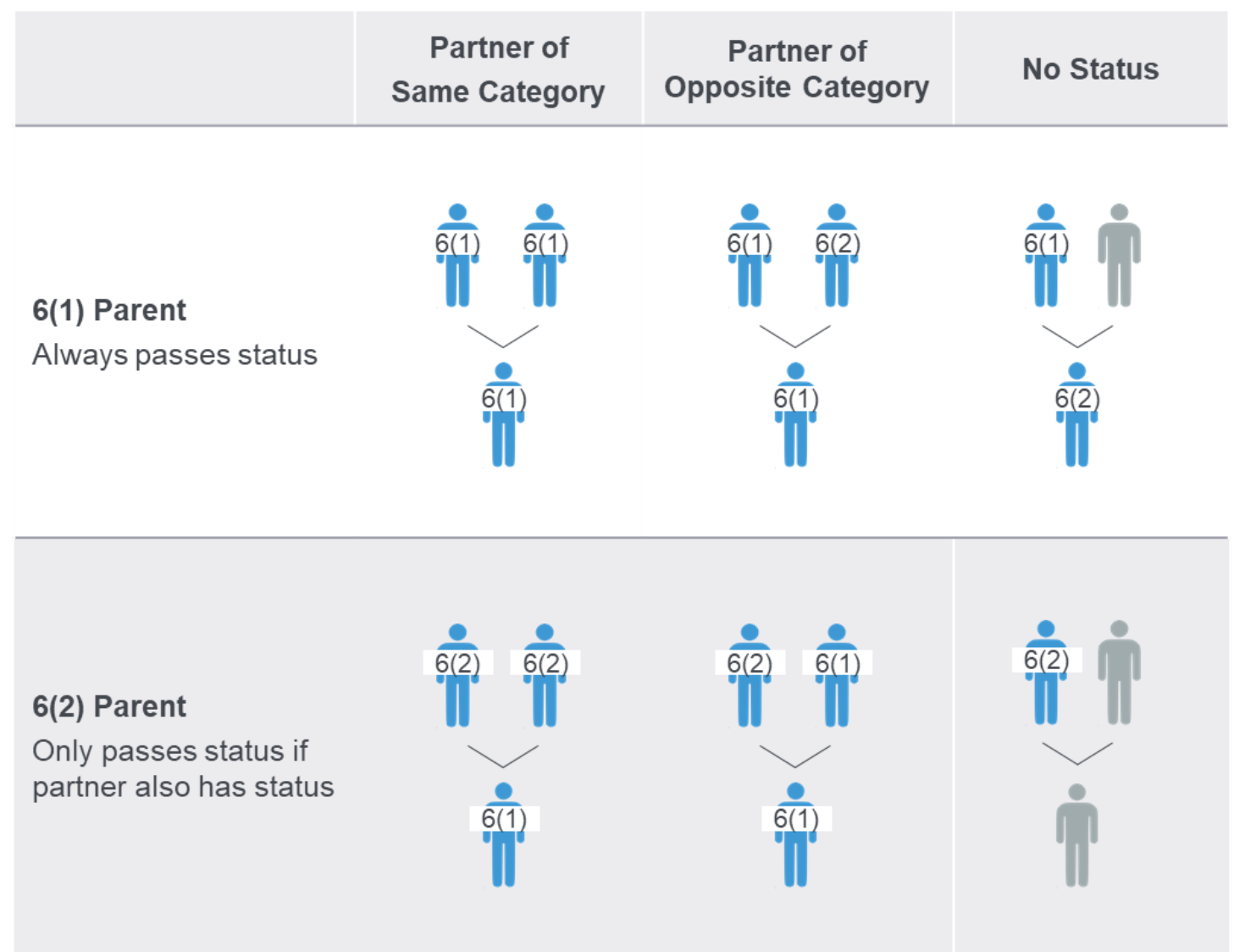
# History of Citizenship

## How Citizenship Works

Under Hiawatha’s current jurisdiction, Section 6 of the Indian Act determines how a person is entitled to be registered for status and Citizenship. Registration is divided into two primary categories, commonly known as sections 6(1) and 6(2). Both categories of status have the same access to services and benefits; however, the ability to pass on Indian status differs depending on whether an individual is registered under 6(1) or 6(2).

A 6(1) always passes entitlement to status to their children, whereas a 6(2) can only pass status if the other parent also has status, commonly called the *Second Generation Cutoff*. A person is entitled to be registered under Section 6(1) if both of their parents have status, and if only one parent has status, the child will be a 6(2). Specific exceptions apply.

Although this system was set up with an insidious intent to assimilate Indigenous peoples, at least it treated Indigenous individuals with status equal to one another.





# History of Citizenship

## Brief Overview of Injustices

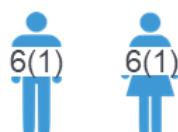
<b>Gradual Civilization Act (1857)</b> <i>A key feature of the Canadian Government's intention to assimilate Indigenous peoples, through a legal process of terminating Indian status</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 'An act to encourage the gradual civilization of Indian tribes in this province, and to amend the laws relating to Indians'</li> <li>- Enfranchisement was a way for Indigenous peoples to surrender their legal and ancestral identities for the 'privilege' of gaining full Canadian Citizenship</li> <li>- Established voluntary enfranchisement for <i>'Indian men over the age 21, with integrity and sobriety, who were able to read and write, were educated, debt free, in good moral standing, and appeared to be safe and suitable to own land'</i></li> </ul>
<b>Gradual Enfranchisement Act (1869)</b> <i>Introduced several policies and regulations for the supervision of Indigenous peoples</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Notably established the elective council system that is still in effect today</li> <li>- Introduced the forced disenfranchisement of Indigenous women through marriage</li> <li>- Superseded by the <i>Indian Act of 1876</i>, which centralized all previous acts</li> </ul>
<b>Indian Act (1876)</b> <i>A document filled with issues. It has had to be amended many times and continues to be a source of problems.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Indians lost legal status for a variety of reasons:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Living outside Canada for 5 years</li> <li>o Earning a university degree or serving in the army</li> <li>o Becoming a doctor, lawyer or Minister</li> <li>o Leaving the reserve for long periods</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### MATERNAL LINE



**Issue:** Women wrongfully lose status upon marriage to non-native men

### PATERNAL LINE



**Issue:** Men can give status upon marriage to non-native women

# History of Citizenship

## Amelioration – Making Progress

<b>Bill C-31 (1985)</b> <i>The work of several Indigenous female activists throughout the 1970-80's</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Women who previously were disenfranchised (married out) and their children regained Indian Status</li> <li>- A person's marriage could no longer affect an individual entitlement to receive or lose Indian Status</li> </ul>
<b>PATERNAL LINE</b>	<p><b>New Issue:</b> Men are able to pass status a full generation further than women if they 'enfranchised' their wives prior to 1985</p>
<b>MATERNAL LINE</b>	<p><b>C-31:</b> Disenfranchised women regain status as 6(1), can pass to their children</p>
<b>Bill C-3 (2011)</b> <i>C-31 appeal in initiated in 1987, led by Sharon McIvor</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Partially corrects Bill C-31's gender-based discrimination</li> <li>- A new issue related to disenfranchisement would arise in 2017</li> <li>- C-3 would now allow those women who lost their status to disenfranchisement to pass status to their grandchildren</li> </ul>
<b>MATERNAL LINE</b>	
<b>PATERNAL LINE</b>	<p><b>C-3:</b> Grandchildren of disenfranchised grandmothers can now receive status</p>

# History of Citizenship

## Latest Efforts

### Bill S-3

*Brought forward by Stéphane Descheneaux and Susan Yantha to correct other issues with the Indian Act.*

#### Phase I – Dec 2017

*Only applied to 1951 to 1985 due to concern of unknown number of new entitlements.*

#### Phase II – Aug 2019

*Extension of application back from 1951 to 1869, when the Gradual Enfranchisement Act came into effect*

### 1. Siblings Issue – Yantha

- Prior to the C-31, only male children born out of wedlock to a father with status and a mother without were entitled to register as Indian.

### 2. Cousins Issue – Descheneaux

- After enfranchisement was removed in 1985, gender-based injustices still exist; paternal bloodlines continue to benefit, if they married before 1985

### 3. Other Issues

- Double-Mother Rule, Unknown Parent, etc.

### COUSINS ISSUE

#### PATERNAL LINE

#### MATERNAL LINE

#### Great Grandparents

*Married before C-31 (1985)*

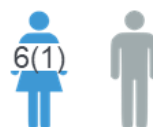
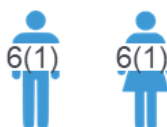


#### Great Grandmother

Prior to 1985 No Status  
C-31 (1985) 6(1)

#### Grandparents

*Married before C-31 (1985)*

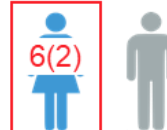
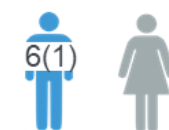


#### Grandmother

Prior to 1985 No Status  
C-31 (1985) 6(2)  
C-3 (2011) 6(1)

#### Parents

*Before S-3, only the fathers could pass status, not mothers.*



#### Mother

Prior to 2011 No Status  
C-3 (2011) 6(2)  
S-3 (2017) 6(1)

#### Children

*Bill S-3 entitles descendants of disenfranchised women, born before 1985, status under 6(2)*



#### Daughter

Prior to 2017 No Status  
S-3 (2017) 6(2)



