



OUR NATIONS UNITED

MISSISSAUGA NATION QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

QUARTER FOUR



ZIIZBAAKTOKE DABIK GIIZIS

Sugar Making Moon

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JUSTICE & GOVERNANCE

Update by Veronica King-Jamieson

Aanii,

The goal of nation rebuilding is to develop governance that has the capacity to deliver the shared vision of the Mississauga Nation and include:

- being engaged in the economy and stewardship of our traditional lands
- governing according to customs and traditions
- having true nation to nation relations
- renewing community pride

Rebuilding can start when community members and leaders support and are ready for change, understand what it means and are fully prepared to implement.

Engaging the membership is a key step, where we plan to:

- Involve citizens in building a vision and strategy
- inform citizens, families, clans and communities of key issues and involve them in the engagement process



- include all in decision-making process with collective decision-making and support throughout implementation

As the Mississauga Nation, we recognize the key role of families in engagement outcomes. Unless the whole family is involved and is thriving, through various social programs and supports, the legacy of past governmental failures will continue and must be overcome. This can only be achieved by ensuring our families have access to the programs and services they need.

For more information, please reach out to Veronica King-Jamieson at 289-440-8672 or at veronicakj.mncoordinator@outlook.com

MISSISSAUGA NATION RESEARCH PROJECT

Update by Chad Cowie

Aanii | Boozhoo,

My name is Chad Cowie and I am from Hiawatha First Nation. Currently, I am a PhD Candidate in Political Science at the University of Alberta. I am also a lecturer in Political Science at McGill University. Recently, I have also joined the Mississauga Nation team to begin a research project.

The research I am assisting with includes reviewing what has been written on the six Mississauga Nation communities and the Mississauga Peoples. I am also looking into the current and local history of each community and what each community is involved in, such as treaties. I will also be documenting important moments for the Mississauga Nation as a whole.

In addition to this work, I am undertaking meetings and interviews with members in each community, including knowledge holders and elders. My goal is to make sure our individual and collective histories as Mississaugas communities and people are included. This research will be available for each Mississauga community and their membership.



I want to express my sincere gratitude to the Mississauga communities and those who I am working with on behalf of the Mississauga Nation. I am grateful for the opportunity to assist and not only give back to my own community of Hiawatha First Nation, but also to the entire Mississauga Nation.

I look forward to talking to many of you over the days, weeks and months to come as I continue to research and interviews I have been working on.

Chad Cowie

MISSISSAUGA NATION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Update by Casey Jonathan

Aanii,

My name is Casey Jonathan and I am the Mississauga Nation Coordinator Liaison. I provide a direct line of communication between our communities, specifically the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Mississauga Nation. As a part of my work, I have also been leading economic development initiatives for the Mississauga Nation, at the Nation level.

Currently, our focus is on creating an economic development framework and strategy. As a part of this process, we will be identifying common priorities and goals across all six of our communities, identifying challenge areas, assessing our capacity, and learning more about existing economic development in each of our communities. This work seeks to provide us with a clear picture of where we are and where we would like to go. ultimately, we want to empower the Mississauga Nation to act on opportunities that will benefit our communities.



We are in the first round of interviews with First Nation leadership, business owners and community members.

The input and feedback we gather will help to guide the Mississauga Nation's decision making on economic development initiatives.

In the near future, we will be releasing a community survey on economic development. You will be able to find this on our social media, in our community newsletters and through email.

If you have any questions, would like to learn more or want to join our email list please reach out to mncliaison@mncfn.ca

Miigwetch,
Casey

KITIGAN PROJECT

UPDATE BY VERONICA KING-JAMIESON

The Mississauga Nation Chiefs approved a funding application titled "KITIGAN". This initiative focuses on learning and teaching about gardens, including:

- How to save seeds
- Understanding the environment
- Plant cycles and seasons while out on the land

During this time we have focused on rebuilding a strong connection and relationships within and across Michi Saagiig communities with youths and families.

Some of the activities under this initiative include storytelling, 13 moon cycle teachings, grandfather teachings, medicine wheel teachings and our ways of knowing.



Please take the time to watch videos to listen to our stories on how our collaborators and participants became interested in learning about the medicines and plants; who inspired them; and tips in starting a garden.

This project is currently gathering and creating seed bundles that will be given to each community across Mississauga Nation. Additionally, a booklet on the stories and photos of our gardens will be provided.

Miigwech to everyone for their time and we look forward to the next project in the spring.



Photos courtesy of Cathie Jamieson and Rachele King

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MEETING THE RICE LAKE ANCESTORS FOR FIRST TIME

By Lori Beavis

As I helped lift the heavy oak-framed glass covering off the cabinet, the birch bark mokuks created by the women at Rice Lake more than 130 years ago were revealed to me. This was my first glimpse of these ancestral items. Since that moment, I have been plotting and working with many people to bring these ancestors home for a visit on their home territory.

In 2016, as I was doing research on Indigenous women, art making and community, I read an article by Dr. Ruth Phillips about a collection of quilled birch bark mokuks at the Swiss Cottage Museum on the Isle of Wight. What really caught my eye was the mention that work in this collection was created by women at the Rice Lake Village (now Hiawatha First Nation) and had been given to Albert, Prince of Wales during his tour of what is now called Canada in the summer of 1860.



Swiss Cottage Museum, Osborne House on the Isle of Wight has been the home of the quilled mokuks. These decorated ancestral baskets were gifted to the Prince of Wales when he visited the Michi Saagig at Rice Lake village in 1860.



In March 2016, I arranged with Michael Hunter, the Curator at the Swiss Cottage Museum, to visit the quilled mokuks. I travelled from London by train and by ferry to Southampton to Cowes on the Isle of Wight on the Thursday before Easter (just before the museum opens to the public each year). It was a lovely warm and spring day as the curator and I walked the kilometer from the main gate of the Osborne House through the grounds to the Swiss Cottage Museum. He had a set a large Victorian skeleton keys that unlocked the large oak framed glass cabinets.

We lifted the identified Rice Lake mokuks out of the cabinet and placed them on a table lit by the late afternoon sun. I began to investigate each basket - as I did so, I saw that each had a woman's name attached, either written on paper, birch bark or quilled onto the basket. I immediately recognized some of the names - Soper, Anderson, Crowe, McCue, Copway, and Muskrat as there are descendants still at Hiawatha or the name is familiar as a marker within the community.

Also inside some baskets was a braided twine of root or other natural fibre - often these were wrapped with coloured quills. Interestingly, for these particular pieces that had not been in the light for many years, the colours were much more intense than the colours of the quills on the mokuks.

I have not been able to determine the purpose of these colourful twines - but these, like the baskets themselves, speak of the women's determination to create objects that were both beautiful and useful.

As for the mokuks, many remain in a good state while others have lost quillwork over the years. I found the baskets that had lost quills fascinating because I was able to see the hand of the artist - I saw her pencil lines and the the holes she had poked to insert the quills. This brought the immediacy of the woman's process forward in time and in a rush of emotion.

That afternoon, as I walked away from the museum, I reflected on how other Michi Saagig people would be able to learn about and meet these ancestors. So, in the late summer, I spent a week at Hiawatha showing my photographs to elders, community members and quill workers. Using the photographs as a guide, we had many good discussions about the mokuks - about the art of quilling, dying of the quills, the women art-makers and their descendants. The people who came also brought other examples of quillwork and basketry that had been passed down along family lines. There was lots of laughter and many stories that diverged away from the quilled baskets. *

One of the ideas to come from the week of visiting was the need for community members to see this work

created by our ancestors. The possibility of going to England was discussed, but as time went on the idea developed that the best thing would be to bring the ancestors for a visit on their home territory.



In 2018, I met Laura Peers through our shared contacts at the Great Lakes Research Alliance for the Study of Aboriginal Arts & Cultures (GRASAC). Laura has experience in working with museums to create loan exhibitions of Indigenous ancestral materials.

Since early 2019, Laura and I have made presentations on bringing the 1860 Rice Lake Gifts to Michi Saagiig territory at Nogojiwanong (Peterborough) to Hiawatha's Chief and Council and the Mississauga Nation Chiefs.

We are now working closely with Hiawatha First Nation Chief Laurie Carr, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Councillor Veronica King-Jamieson, the Mississauga Nation Liaison Coordinators and the Royal Collections Trust (the organization that manages all of the Queen's artworks) to create a long-term loan exhibition in 2023 in Nogojiwanong/ Peterborough and the Peterborough Museum and Archives in 2023.

*I would like to acknowledge - Joan Ferguson, Carol Adams, Joy Godfrey, Terry Musgrave, Sheryl Dundas, Lois Beavis, Kim Muskrat and Tom Cowie.



Bio: Lori Beavis is a citizen of Hiawatha First Nation. She descends from the Wellington Cowie line on her maternal family side and from Irish settlers on her father's side. Lori has strong memories of her grandmother's love for quillwork. She also remembers the stories told by her grandmother and her Uncle Johnny Cowie about the Prince and his visit to Rice Lake. Lori lives and works in Tiohtiia:ke/ Montreal and she is the Director of the Daphne Art Centre, the first Indigenous artist-run centre in Quebec.

Photos courtesy of Lori Beavis

HONOURING MMIWG: MY JOURNEY

BY EDEBWED OGICHIDAA KWE
MISSISSAUGAS OF THE CREDIT
FIRST NATION



My work started with MMIWG in 2006 when I first became aware of what was happening to our Indigenous women and the root causes.

Bev Jacobs was the Executive Director of Ontario Native Women's Association and started a research project from 2005 to 2010. This project not only exposed over 500 cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, it also gathered oral stories from families who agreed to share their stories.

In 1992, I had worked a women's shelter in Six Nation of the Grand River; Ganohkwasra. I did processing on self and learned about trauma so I could be a better help to people. I started taking women's studies and Indigenous courses at McMaster University in 2007 where I learned more statistics on our women, men and children. In 2009, I worked with the Native Hamilton Women's Shelter as a wrap-around facilitator. That same year, I organized my first MMIWG vigil where I worked closely with the family members of the

MMIWG and the local police force.

A horrendous act occurred on January 22, 2012 when a school friend was murdered in my own community, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

There is little to no media coverage on MMIWG and so I created a website, Never to be Forgotten. I post one to six pictures a week of the girls that are missing or murdered. This is too many.

From 2012 to 2017, I started organizing walks and vigils of MMIWG twice a year. Participation varied from 20 to 100 people at each event. Families also started coming together to help do events and I worked with family members to help.

My family of six girls and one son did a CD for healing. All of the songs came spiritually to lift the women and families up for healing. The first song that came talked about the women on the path and the people in the earth path are asked while they are connected to their heart, someone is

singing for them.

The work I have done over the last six years has created a space for education and awareness alongside the families impacted by MMIWG.

I have worked with various groups in Haldimand-Norfolk, Brantford and Hamilton-Wentworth to raise awareness on the impacts of MMIWG through faceless doll projects.

This organization donated five banners that were given to families for use when they go to different events.

Nothing I did was ever on my own and I always consulted with the families to make sure I was on the right track. Over time, people have asked me to come and do openings or speak on MMIWG. I've done fundraisers to help support families who are directly addressing systemic grievances associated with MMIWG.

I was invited, along with families, to Thunder Bay in 2016 when there was an inquiry request similar to the TRC. We met with Prime Minister Trudeau and the inquiry became a reality. More stories have been brought to light, statistics have increased and not decreased and we have provided information on positive and negative impacts. There is some controversy surrounding this work, however, time will tell whether or not it is helpful.

The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls closed on June 3, 2019. There are 231 calls-to-action in a report titled "Reclaiming Power and Place". The root cause of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls as stated: Genocide. It was an emotional and truthful moment when Indigenous people stood to face Canada.

I believe that society feels women are not human enough, we are not intelligent enough and that our lives do not matter when in fact the opposite is true. We are worthy, we matter and we are intelligent people with a unique worldview.

Various events aimed at raising awareness of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls were held across our First Nations. These included sacred fires, hanging prayer ties on trees, a rolling vigil and a feast.

The Mississaugas of the Credit also hosted a virtual symposium and round dance that was broadcast across the Mississauga Nation on February 26th. This symposium featured speakers and delegates from of the families of lost loved ones. Indigenous singers women singers also shared their stories and songs.

We encourage everyone to educate themselves and raise awareness!

MMIWG #Michi Saagiig

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

**MCFN Special Events and Culture Unit
invites you to create a 5" x 5" (inch)
Quilting Block for a Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)
Community Quilt. The quilt will be
constructed and presented to the
community to coincide with the national
MMIWG Sisters in Spirit Vigil on October,
4th, 2021.**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE
September, 1st, 2021**

Please Submit/Mail to the following address:

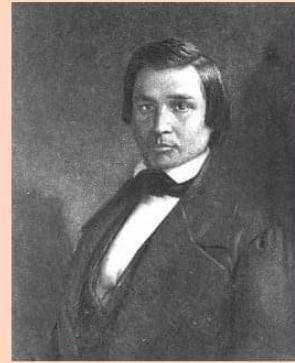
**"Jai King-Green
C/O - Special Events and Culture Unit,
2789 Mississauga Rd,
RR#6, Hagersville,
ON, N0A 1H0"**

**For more info please contact Jai King-Green @
Jai.King-Green@mncfn.ca**

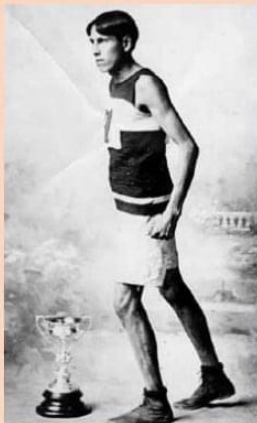
Do you know someone famous from your community?



Elsie Marie Knott (née Taylor; September 20, 1922 – December 3, 1995)[1] was the first woman in Canada to be elected as Chief of Curve Lake First Nation



George Copway (1818 – June 27, 1869) was a Mississaugas Ojibwa writer, ethnographer, Methodist missionary, lecturer, and advocate of indigenous people from Hiawatha First Nation. His Ojibwa name was Kah-Ge-Ga-Gah-Bowh, meaning "He Who Stands Forever"



Fred Simpson Sr. (1878-1945) was an Alderville Mississauga Ojibwa marathon runner born and raised on the Alderville Indian Reserve. He joined the Canadian Olympic Marathon Team 1908.



A member of the Mississauga people, LaForme is the Mississauga of the Credit. LaForme is the first appellate court judge in Canadian history with a First Nations background.

Send Kim a small blurb and a picture of someone famous from your community to be featured on our Facebook page.

HONOURING OUR YOUTH

FEATURING NATE THOMSON

Meet 15 year old Nate Thomson, from Hiawatha First Nation, who represented his community playing for Team Canada International!

At the age of 4, Nate was diagnosed with a non-cancerous tumour in his left knee that caused him a lot of pain during play and activity. It was successfully removed through surgery and he has not slowed down since.

He has been an active athlete for most of his life. He has played hockey from the age of 6 and began playing football at the age of 8 where he found his true love of the sport. He had a passion for the game and quickly picked up every aspect of it.

He started off playing football for the city's house league and at the age of 12 earned a spot on Peterborough's rep team with the Wolverines. In his 3rd year, he was noticed by the head coach of Team Canada International. Nate was invited to attend a tryout sessions for a spot on the team and traveled to Florida to participate in a week long football tournament against other teams from around the world.



Nate had a successful tryout and with his 6'3" stature, long reach and speed, he made the team as a receiver and represented Hiawatha First Nation and Indigenous youth athletes in that tournament. Team Canada came home with silver after completing the week with only one loss.

We are proud of you Nate!

If you would like to recognize a Michi Sagiig youth between the ages of 10-25, please reach out to us with their name, age, First Nation and a description of their accomplishment and/ or why you would like to recognize them.

Send to: mississauganationhood@hiawathafn.ca

HONOURING OUR YOUTH

FEATURING HANNAH DARLING & OLIVIA WILSON

Hannah is a citizen of Curve Lake First Nation and a member of Canada's gold medal Rugby 7's team. They made their debut at the Pan-American Games in Toronto in 2015.

She captained the Rugby 7's team to a silver medal at their debut in the Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing, China in 2014. She was also a member of Canada's Olympic bronze medal team in Rio de Janeiro where the Rugby 7's made their olympic debut.



You are amazing, Hannah!



We are proud of you, Olivia!

OLIVIA WILSON is from Hiawatha First Nation and has been asked to be a part of the North American Team at the International Meeting of Young Beekeepers Competition in Slovenia!

Olivia has been a part of the Kawartha Junior Beekeepers Association for the past two years where she has been gaining knowledge and experience on all things bees.

The teams will be testing their knowledge in many areas including: beekeeping equipment, drone marking, frame building, identifying capped and uncapped brood, honey, pollen, eggs and larvae, honey extraction, honey identification, noise test (which hive has a queen), pests and disease identification, larvae grafting, removing bees from frames and written tests.

HONOURING OUR YOUTH

FEATURING EWAABJIGEDKWE

Kenni-Dee Leonhardi is 11 years old and a member of Curve Lake First Nation. Kenni has many gifts and one she practices every day is her gift of giving.

She loves to garden and harvest vegetables. She makes pickles, jams, and salsa that she gifts to Elders in her community as well as Elders who are a part of culture and language journey. She also gifts to the homeless.

She is a fancy shawl dancer and loves dancing at powwows. She teaches us everyday to be better humans and to always be kind.

She is learning her language and culture and loves sharing her knowledge with anyone who will listen.



She once shared a sweetgrass teaching with 200 educators in Toronto at a conference opening. She is a life long learner with a big heart of gold.

You are so wonderful, Ewaabjigedkwe!



We are looking for Michi Saagiig individuals and families who want to participate in traditional recipe sharing! We want you to submit a home-video tutorial, along with the recipe and photos of the plated dish.

All videos and recipes will be translated into Michi Saagiig Anishinaabemowin and included in a recipe book. Participants will receive an honorarium and finished recipe book. An extra incentive is available to those who can do their video in Anishinaabemowin!

For more information and to participate, please contact Caitlin Laforme at caitlin.laforme@mncfn.ca



Ingredients

5 cups flour

4 teaspoons baking powder

1 teaspoon salt

4 tablespoons lard or drippings

2 1/2 cups water

PAN FRY BREAD

1. Mix dry ingredients
2. Add fat and work mixture until crumbly
3. Add water. The dough will be stiff
4. Knead in a bowl for 10 rounds
5. Add a bit of flour if the mixture is too sticky
6. Place in a greased, flat cake pan
7. Bake at 400 degrees Fahrenheit for 40 minutes
8. Cut into wedges and enjoy!

The bread can also be cooked outside over an open fire by placing in a greased skillet. When one side is brown, turn over in pan and cook the other side the same way

Reflecting on 2020

AT THE END OF 2020, WE POSED A SERIES OF QUESTIONS TO OUR MEMBERS, FROM ACROSS THE MISSISSAUGA NATION, TO NOT ONLY CHECK IN BUT TO NOW SERVE AS A REMINDER TO ALL OF US THAT WE ARE A RESILIENT, PROUD PEOPLE AND IF WE HAVE EACH OTHER, WE CAN GET THROUGH ANYTHING.

THIS IS WHAT YOU HAD TO SAY



I am proud that my grandson is interested in learning more about Anishinaabe medicines and wants to become a medicine man.

- Mary Alton

What makes me proud is how we respect our elders and wildlife

- Rory Cummings

We come from strong Anishinaabe roots with a strong surrounding feeling from our ancestors

- Mellissa Gravelle

We are all connected and have that innate connection to the mother earth

- Michele King

I feel love for our land and family

- Kathleen Bowles

I am proud of our elders who were and are wise beyond their years.

- Sharla Quinlan

WE ARE PROUD!

I love how family and friends look after one another no matter how little we may talk or see each other, we are always there for one another when needed

- Dianne Sault

Proud to be a S.N.A.G: Strong Nish and Gifted

- Mike Ormsby

We are the original people. Proud to speak my language and live in this beautiful community. We are important to this country.

- Ida Pandza

Aanii niindinawemaaganidog! I am proud to be Michi Saagiig Nishnaabe because although our nation has endured so much, we are still strong and each one of us has been created with a legacy of courage, resilience, love and respect for our way of life!

- Estrella Racoma Whetung

As I learn more and more about my culture, I get to share my experiences with others to help teach them about our culture.

- Laura Howard

I am proud of the feeling of unity we are regaining

- Arlan Musgrave

I am proud of our tradition and land. I am more connected to the land and water. Stories of our ancestors living off the land.

- Sally Morningstar

I'm proud seeing the strength of my elders because it taught me to be a better person. Now I get to raise a strong indigenous boy with the same strength and perseverance.

- Joshua Cory Banks

I am proud of our culture, history and the fact that we were here long before Canada existed.

- Jesse Johnson

Our culture is so rich with gentle humor, integrity and inner strength. We are a resourceful people making a lot from little. Our tie to the land, water, animals and all around us is a grateful existence.

- Louisa Chiblow

It makes me proud when I see our little ones & new dancers entering Grand Entry for the 1st time!

- Julie Bothwell

I am proud of my culture and my Indigenous ancestry. I am proud of how resilient and strong my First Nation community is.

- Nicola Edgar

Everything makes me proud to be Anishinaabe. My grandparents, parents, children, grandchildren. All the love and persistence from generation to generation.

- Kari Ivany

I am proud of the unbreakable connection to family, especially my grandparents. There's always a sense of belonging even if you don't live in the village. It gives strength.

- Yvette Jones

I am proud to carry on the teachings of our elders

- Bella Taylor

I have realized the true value of family
- Lawrence Paudash

My niece is now 10 months in of
Recovery from addiction.
Best 2020 ever!
- Norma LaFonte

I taught beading classes in my Nation
- Jamie-Lyn Gillingham

I have taken over a
business upon my boss's
retirement. Now I'm my
own boss!
- Courtney Lake

My son started university, he is autistic

2020 has been a challenge, I started a
new job and then COVID-19 hit. It was
tough but it reinstated how important
family is and how staying home can be
so much fun! I also became a
grandmother to beautiful baby girl!

WE ARE RESILIENT!

The most meaningful thing that
happened to me was to hear my
granddaughter use the ojibwe
language and help others learn the first
language and to see how thoughtful
and how giving she really is and to give
my own daughter her nishnaabe name
on her birthday was another
wonderful thing that happened to me
in 2020
- Mary Alice Taylor

I gave birth to my third child and
started my own at-home
business.
-Samantha Boyer

I was able to work on a national
project to support the future of
dementia care

This year has been tough on my family
but it's brought us closer together. I've
always wanted to learn how to bead
and craft so we've started taking
workshops together. I've learned to
bead and make mittens, bracelets and
more - and I've gotten to enjoy learning
with my cousins.
- Ashley Sault

I returned to university after 16
years and I am doing a masters
of information.
- Cora Coady

I became a member of the Louis Riel
teachers association indigenous
education counsel.
- Jeffery Herkimer

I changed employers and it was a hard
decision. It turns out it was the best decision
for my mental health!
-Tiffany Taylor

I have received a few
responses from people I have
helped over the year telling
me how I have changed their
lives with my work. Very
proud moments this year

I found and new job. I also learned how
to weave cedar bark.
- Dana Boyer

After years of anxiety, I finally went back to school, and
am now graduating with distinction
(average marks 90% or higher!)
- Katelynn Pamplin

My most meaningful
accomplishment of 2020 was
maintaining my work load,
supporting families in my job as
well as assisting my daughter
with learning from home for the
first half of 2020.
- Lindsay M. Sault

I developed a stronger
relationship with my family
and spent more time with
them outside enjoying each
other's company.
- Rebecca Loucks

2020 has been a rough year. I lost my
father and my best friend. I learned
that we have no control over the future
or time and to love and appreciate
everyone everyday.

I managed to survive
day after day

My daughter started college at Fanshawe and moved out to her own apartment! Big steps!
- Susan Johnson

After some extensive healing of emotional trauma, I was finally able to return to work and feel good about myself again.

I finally got the help I needed to tackle my mental health issues and get back to feeling like me. It wasn't easy for me and it took a lot, especially during a pandemic.

I got into college to pursue my dream in firefighting
-Kyah Musgrave

I work as a PSW in the one of worst hit Long term care homes during this pandemic. It's the most terrifying experience, not knowing what work was going to be like going in everyday. I persevered, along with my coworkers. I can't say I've had many positives this year, it's been a rollercoaster of emotions but I'm healthy, happy and still Covid free.
- Rebecca Lemieux

I have been learning my language for over a year now and I am passing on my knowledge to my Kindergarten students! It's so rewarding!

One positive thing for me in 2020 was becoming more connected with myself and the land. The beauty of our land is amazing, exploring the lakes and portaging like our ancestors. I felt the peace and calmness.
-Sally Morningstar

This year, more than any year before, I have made a consistent, conscious effort to work on my mental health and wellbeing. I have Started therapy, meditation, searching for traditional practices that bring me comfort (beading, cooking, sewing, reading teachings, language) and have felt so welcomed into spaces such as online workshops, that in the past, I have been too scared to take. I am so looking forward to a new year, but 2020 has had some nice moments.

I have learned that there is hope at the end of the rainbow, to remember the good in bad situations, to seek lessons from them and to move forward with love and loving. With the coronavirus, the loss of a sister and the loss of a dear brother-in-law in 2020, I remember a life without the boundaries, the good, the laughs, the love, and I am letting those memories guide me to and navigate through our future with hope.

I have been working with our citizens and experts to keep our community safe and covid free
- Kathryn Wilson

I learned how to make my own medicines

We became proud grandparents of three beautiful, healthy grandbabies. We have 10 in total and ones on the way
- Cheryl Taylor

Miigwetch
-Katrina Brant

I honed my sewing skills and made several ribbons skirts. Being able to make my own skirts is important to me and I take pride in wearing them.
- Jill Stevens

Re-establishing a love for exploration and nature with my family. Covid gave us an unexpected opportunity to slow down and achieve a closer bond as a family.
- Tamara Laforme

I started grad school for language revitalization and have completed three courses so far
- Carmen Crag

I want to thank front line workers they diligently go to work during this trying time so appreciative of all. Nurses, doctors, grocery store workers, truck drivers. The list goes on.
- Barbara Reynolds

I want to recognize my parents. They have supported me in going to school and have helped my mental health greatly.

I want to recognize my husband for continuing to be my rock.

I want to recognize my co-worker/supervisor: she always let me know that it was okay to feel all my feelings, mostly when the pandemic started. She let me take the rest I needed and to take care of my kids and some days work just wasn't as important. I still got everything done but in a way that allowed me to take care of myself and my family first.

WE ARE CONNECTED!

I want to recognize my Uncle Garry, he is the only surviving brother left in the Paudash Family and he is holding us together during this time!
- Glenna LaFonte

I want to recognize my best friend Michael Howard he is there if need to talk
- Betty Hartsgrrove

I would like to recognize all First Nation people. We are strong and work together in times of need and happiness. For all the teachings that have been passed on from generation to generation across all our communities.
- Eric Vowles

I want to recognize our leaders for all of their support and encouragement

I want to recognize my Mom. She is a knowledge holder. She's a great storyteller. She's pretty strong and a wise soul. She persevered through the pandemic.

I want to recognize our communities for continuing to come up with creative ideas to provide services to our members while still practicing safe covid 19 measures.
- Diane Curwin

I want to recognize my Grandmother, Ida Pandza. She's sharp, wise & humorous. She likes to tell stories about her childhood, youth and life.

I want to recognize my nana. She's been looking after my grandpa who is facing terminal cancer and she has been so strong while still being overwhelmed.
- Holly Redden

I want to recognize Kim Musgrave and Tom Cowie for all their hard work during lockdown. Delivering craft kits for kids and things for them to do. They did this out of their own pocket. Was the greatest thing and the kids enjoyed it.
- Leslie Bradley

I want to recognize my daughter Karen who works tirelessly as a p s w and keeping her family safe in this difficult time
- Katherine Knott

I want to recognize my mom, Carolyn King, she has done so very much for our community, and is finally getting the recognition locally and beyond.
- Michele King

I want to recognize my awesome coworkers for keeping us going during the difficult times

I want to recognize everyone who made it through the hard year and all of our knowledge keepers, language speakers, story tellers, elders, youth, crafters, who's hard work has breathed new life and awareness into our culture to help ensure the survival of our stories, language and ancient teachings which make us unique and who we are
- Luke Rouillard



We are resilient and won't be taken down

We respect Mother Earth

We strive to follow a good path in life following bimaadiizwiin and the 7 Grandfather teachings

We are hard working and community focused

Everyone is valued

We have a strong, beautiful culture and we are proud of it.

We are very giving and care for the land

We respect our elders

We are very artistically creative

WE ARE STILL HERE!

The History of our people would provide a good understanding of what really took place.

Our culture is rooted in our language

We are a resilient nation who work to reclaim our cultural practices that have been lost to us.

We honour Mother Earth.

We are connected to everything.

Our teachings are beautiful and connect back to the land

We are caring. Our communities come together when we need love and support.

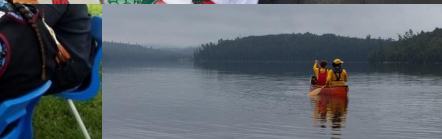
We are family oriented

We love and respect our land

We strive as a people to live in harmony with the natural environment.

We always give back and only take what we need

We strive to create a better future for the next seven generations



THE MISSISSAUGA NATION