

M'CHIGEENG NEWSLETTER

February Edition

COVID-19 Status Update

M'Chigeeng First Nation is currently in the RED of our Reopening Plan. At this time, M'Chigeeng has 28 active cases within our community with a total of 49 active cases in the Manitoulin District as tracked by Public Health Sudbury as of February 1, 2022. Under these circumstances, M'Chigeeng First Nation continues to follow all precautions and are revisiting our Levels of Reopening. Departments will continue to operate programming and services under protocols set in the RED LEVEL.

RED LEVEL OF REOPENING



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COVID-19 Changing COVID Guidance

It has been communicated from the province that ALL COVID-19 tests (PCR and Rapid Antigen tests) are in limited supply due to the rapid rise in cases that has occurred recently. As a result of this shortage in tests, there have been changes made to what is considered a positive COVID-19 case. The Rapid antigen Test, should it read positive, is confirmation for COVID-19. **It is important that you contact Health Services Community Health Nurses as soon as you are aware of your positive results.** These positive results are based on the Rapid Antigen tests will be added to M'Chigeeng Daily Community Bulletin relating to COVID case numbers. If you do test positive on a Rapid Antigen test at home, please call Health Services (705-377-5347) to report your results.

ISOLATION SUPPORTS

Are you currently isolating due to COVID-19?

M'Chigeeng First Nation can offer you isolation supports if you are in need of supplies, prescription pick up, grocery delivery, etc. Please contact Health Services to inquire about isolation supports 705-377-5347.

COVID-19 VACCINE CLINICS

These clinics will be happening **at the MFN Complex every 2nd Tuesday of the month.**

Community Members will be able to book and appointment for any of their vaccine doses. Please contact Health Services (705-377-5347) OR Public Health Sudbury (705-674-2299)

COVID-19 Testing

If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or have been listed a close contact, there are a few options that you can take to get yourself tested.

1. You can book a test by calling M'Chigeeng Health Services (705-377-5347). A test will be booked, and you can arrive for testing right in your vehicle at the Health Centre
2. Health Services offers take home Rapid Antigen Testing kits. These testing kits can be performed at home and provide accurate results. Contact Health Services to inquire about at home Rapid Antigen Testing Kits (705-377-5347).

BE SAFE. WEAR YOUR MASK AND ALWAYS WASH YOUR HANDS TO REDUCE THE SPREAD.

PEER SUPPORT PROGRAMMING UPDATE

The Peer Support and Outreach Building remains open to offer services and outreach to our community members. At this time with the current COVID-19 protocols, we can only allow **1 person at a time in the building** for essential services, to warm up or to contact our Peer Support Workers.

We also provide essential supplies like drinks and snacks, naloxone kits. Take away hot meals will be provided each evening as well.

Our outreach workers will also be providing nightly community outreach to M'Chigeeng.

We will continue to provide updates and inform you on when our facilities will be able to open for a larger capacity of people.

Traditional Knowledge Keeper Visits!

The Outreach program has a Traditional knowledge keeper, Godfrey Shawanda coming to the building twice a week.

Emergency Contacts for the Outreach Building

Sheri Wabanosse, Outreach Coordinator
705-968-0586

Khayla Patterson, Drug Strategy Coordinator
705-968-0552

Peer Support Workers

A word cloud centered on the word "Peer Support". Other prominent words include "recovery", "respect", "values", "rights", "dignity", "possibility", "customs", "relationships", "RECOVERY-TO-PRACTICE", "hope", "dreams", "experiences", "differentials", "journey", "curious", "principles", "self-respect", "ethics", "supporter's", "perspective", "mutual", "specialist", "power", "resources", "beliefs", "RECOVERY", "human", "wellness", "RESPECT", "trust", "community", "models", "collaboration", "SUPPORT", "leaders", "practice", "Hope", "cultural", "team", "sharing", "strength", "attitudes", "supervisor", "informed", "choice", "HOPE", and "PEER".

Peer Support Building Hours

Monday: 8:00am – 10:00pm

Tuesday: 8:00am – 9:00pm

Wednesday: 8:00am – 10:00pm

Thursday: 8:00am – 10:00pm

Friday: 8:00am – 11:00pm

day: 5:00pm – 11:00pm



M'Chigeeng First Nation Low Barrier Shelter

The Peer Support and Outreach program now has opened a Low Barrier Shelter to provide community members with housing security issues, a place to sleep. This shelter will be located at the Saaswaahns Building in the Lakeview Area. Community Members can use it regularly if needed and can return nightly.

Hours are 12:00am – 8:00am 7 days a week. 7 Beds are available. Those who choose to stay at the shelter must remain there for the night upon arrival. No age limits and this shelter is a co-ed shelter. COVID-19 Protocols will be in effect and screening will happen prior to entry to the shelter.

Community Members who wish to use the shelter can present themselves at the Outreach Building before 12:00am or go directly to the shelter during its hours of operation. Naloxone and Harm Reduction Kits will be available at the shelter as well.

Please contact the Peer Support & Outreach Building if you have any questions about this shelter. 705-377-5362 ext.220

JOB POSTINGS

M'Chigeeng First Nation continues to circulate job postings for those who are interested in applying for a position that suits you! A reminder to all those who plan on applying for a position with us that you required the following to be accepted as a complete application:

A Current Resume , 2 Written Work References (A Direct Supervisor),1 Written Character Reference (a Co-Worker), A Cover letter for the position you are applying for.

Complete applications can be submitted at the Band Office or via email at: employment@mchigeeng.ca. We hope to see lots of applications! If you would like the Full Job description, Please contact Andrea McGregor at andream@mchigeeng.ca. or 705-377-5362 Ext. 226

New Hires!

M'Chigeeng First Nation would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new hires!

Dawn Patrick – IRA/Membership Clerk
Denise Debassige – Childcare Supervisor
Roger Brasil – IT Administrator
Heather Strain – General Ledge Clerk
Jasmine Panacheese – LVS Librarian
Arlene McCaffrey – Sr. Kindergarten Teacher
Jasmine Roy – Childcare Resource Teacher
Zoee Maxwell – Grade ¾ Teacher
Terri Lynn Leighton – Tutor Escort
Catherine Ense - Education Finance Clerk
Susan Abitong – Shelter Worker
Timothy Ense – Shelter Worker

EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE

ON-CALL POSITIONS AVAILABLE

M'Chigeeng First Nation has plenty of opportunities for people to apply for on-call/part-time positions! Please see the opportunities below. **The application process is the same as when you apply for any of our full-time positions, see the application requirements and process above.**

Administration/Finance

On-Call Positions Available: Postal Clerk, Receptionist, Janitor, Administrative/Clerical Assistant

Health Services

On-Call Positions Available: Personal Support Worker, Clerical Support/Reception, Janitorial/Custodial, Medical Transportation Driver, Cooks

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 16th, 2022 @ 3:00 P.M.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

CULTURE AND LANGUAGE FACILITATOR

Department: Administration – Peer Support
Classification/Level: \$63,000 / Year
Employment Status: Full-Time -Term



APPLICATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14th, 2022 @ 3:00 P.M.

FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM WORKER

Department: Health Services
Classification/Level: CS-3 (\$51,530 - \$62,980)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2022, AT 3 P.M.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSE

Classification Level: MFN Nursing Salary Grid
Employment Status: Full Time Regular
Department: Health Services

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 16th, 2022 @ 3:00 P.M.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

SYSTEM NAVIGATOR

Department: Administration – Peer Support
Classification/Level: \$63,000 / Year
Employment Status: Full-Time -Term

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 16th, 2022 @ 3:00 P.M.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

CULTURE AND LANGUAGE FACILITATOR

Department: Administration – Peer Support
Classification/Level: \$63,000 / Year
Employment Status: Full-Time -Term

APPLICATION DEADLINE: OPEN UNTIL FILLED



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES (2) REGISTERED EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

Department: Education, BINOONIH GAMGOONHS (Childcare Centre)
Classification Level: ECE Salary Grid
Employment Status: Regular Full Time (With extended health and benefits and pension)



APPLICATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14th, 2022 @ 3:00 P.M.

FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Department: Health Services
Classification/Level: CA-5 (\$49,500 – \$60,500)

M'Chigeeng First Nation is looking for On Call/ Supply Workers with Valid D-Z License. Roads (Summer and Winter); Water Truck Drivers; Maintenance Workers. We Need Arena Helpers!

NEW EMPLOYEE ANNOUNCEMENTS/INTRODUCTIONS



Heather Strain – General Ledger Clerk

Aanii, M'Chigeeng First Nation (MFN)!

My name is Heather Strain, and I have been a resident of Gore Bay Manitoulin Island for more than 30 years. I have worked for both the Private & Public Sector. My most recent employment was at Manitoulin Health Centre for almost 14 years as a Finance Clerk. After recently retiring I soon discovered that a full-stop retirement was not for me and look forward to this new opportunity with M'Chigeeng First Nation.

On a more personal note, my family and I own/operate a Beef farm just west of Gore Bay and raise chickens as well. I thoroughly enjoy the rural lifestyle, including gardening & preserving the bounty that I harvest. I also volunteer with the Manitoulin Special Olympics program on the Island, and I am one of the organizers of our Bluegrass in the Country Music Festival.

Hopefully I will soon be able to meet all of you in person. Miigwetch for this wonderful opportunity!

Zoe Maxwell – Gr. 3/4 Teacher

I have been teaching 14 years and enjoying every minute of it. The greatest thing about teaching is the creativity needed to inspire students. I am an art therapist with a passion to create wellness out of trauma, and create more mindful learning. I am a member of Mattagami First Nations. I wish I spoke Oji-cree! Looking forward to great year; creating fun learning under the online classroom full of keen learners. That is my dog Mikiju.



Jasmine Panacheese – Librarian

Jasmine Cedar Panacheese is the current Librarian at Lakeview School. Jasmine is Anishinaabekwe from Mishkeegogamang First Nation, located in Northern Ontario, Treaty 9. She holds a bachelors degree in Indigenous Studies from Trent University and has goals to start a master's degree in Education. Jasmine believes that it is a privilege to live and learn on Manitoulin Island and encourages others to feel the same way.

Roger Brasil - IT System Administrator for Education

I have been involved with computers in many different aspects since.... a long while ago. I have been living in M'Chigeeng since 2009. My boys are Ojibwe/Potawatomi on their mothers side.

I am excited to learn more of the culture/language and look forward to working more closely with Lakeview School and the M'Chigeeng First Nations community.



Jasmine Roy – Resource Teacher

Aanii Kinawiiya

My name is Jasmine Roy. I am a proud member of M'Chigeeng First Nation. I have been an employee at M'Chigeeng Binoojiinh Gamgoonhs for many years now. I received my diploma in ECE-Anishnabemowin from Kenjgewin teg and Canadore college in 2019 and have been a registered Early Childhood Educator since. I Recently returned to work after my maternity leave had ended in November of 2021. Shortly after my return I decided to apply for a new position in the center. I am happy to introduce myself as the new Resource Teacher at M'Chigeeng Binoojiinh Gamgoonhs. I am looking forward to expanding my learning and starting this new chapter in my professional journey.



Arlene McCaffery – Senior Kindergarten

As an Aboriginal Teacher, personally growing up on a remote First Nation Community and working with First Nations children, I see great benefit for the children to have positive First Nation Role Models, such as Teachers, to assist and guide them through their journey. I want to ensure that our Aboriginal Youth have role models they can relate to. I will implement Culture and Traditions as part of their education to ensure inclusiveness and a sense of belonging for all students. I am an Aboriginal Woman and take great pride in our Culture, Traditions, Background and Teachings and want to ensure these gifts are passed down to our future Generations. I see great benefit for the children to have positive First Nations Role Models, such as what a teacher would provide, to assist and guide them through their journey of the Seven Grandfather Teachings. For these reasons, I want to be that Role Model to provide encouragement, guidance and stability.

My experience in Education has inspired me to do more for the Aboriginal Youth in our Communities. Because of my personal background I can relate to our aboriginal students who live on and off the First Nations, having lived both on and off reserve myself. By having this strong nurturing understanding, it is much easier for me to paradigm shift and see from their perspective. This allows me to tailor lessons to the inquisitive minds of the children and their learning experiences to suit their individual background and personal situations. I understand the student's emotional and mental issues and it takes patience, active listening a good heart and resource management to effectively assist these young people to simply function in a school environment. I see this as a true personal asset in being able to reach some of the most difficult learners. This has served as a truly effective teaching strategy in my current practice.

I will embed Culture and Traditions as part of my teaching practice to ensure inclusiveness and a sense of belonging for all students. My favorite subject to embed these practices would be science. This would allow students to learn the importance and understanding of respect for the Animals, Land and Environment we live in. It would be a fun and hands-on experience! The introduction of these concepts and Teachings to school staff and the student population will not only enrich the lives of the Aboriginal Students and Non- Aboriginal Students as well. I have become a strong advocate for seeing the following included in classroom learning environments such as: Traditional Drumming and Singing, Traditional Dress, Traditional foods, and Traditional Lifestyles such as Hunting and Trapping.

With the extra enhancement and understanding of Aboriginal Perceptions I have been learning this is helping me build a stronger sense of community by cooperating and collaborating with families and their communities. Having their input and communication benefits the students. I feel this leads to greater success of our First Nations Students and non- First Nation students in our communities. I want to help our children succeed for the betterment and strength of our Nation and to make a difference in our community.

Ultimately, there is always something to learn. As a teacher, you never stop learning. The children are innocent and small, but powerful to influence change.

Aanii M'Chigeeng First Nation members! We have an exciting announcement. Our team has gained a new member on January 24, 2020, It is with great pleasure to introduce you to the newest addition to our team and community. Please welcome Dawn Patrick, who will be the new CIRAC for M'Chigeeng First Nation, we are excited for her to join us!

Aanii, my name is Dawn Patrick, my family name is Sayers. I am from Batchawana First Nation, although I grew up in the city of Toronto, I've spent a lot of time back home, in the summer and winter holidays every year for as long as I can remember.

I met my husband, Raymond Migwans, while taking a George Brown College program in Office Management and Administration in 1993, I have a wonderful stepson, who was 3 years old when I had the pleasure to meet him, he is now going on 32 years old with 2 beautiful children of his own, Minis and Mijiiikwis. I am very excited that I have been given the opportunity to assist community members with any guidance or answer any questions in relation to my new position, what I don't know yet I promise I will find the answers for you. I am honoured to be able to contribute to a community that I now call home and hopefully my son and grandchildren will eventually do the same.

EDUCATION UPDATE

Lakeview School

Aanii Kina Gwiya,

It has been a long 2 months with many new changes for both students and staff at Lakeview School. It has been tough with online learning and with new staff coming on board while online, but we did it. We want to introduce the new staff at Lakeview School covering for Maternity Leave is Arlene McCaffrey- She is the new grade SK teacher. She began her position in January. The new Grade 3&4 teacher is Zee Maxwell. Zee began her position in December while we were online. Lakeview School also has a new librarian which is Jasmine Panacheese.

How Can We Help You as You Return to Lakeview School in 2022?

School staff will need to support students in the transition back to the classroom, and at the same time manage their own transition and anxiety. These are suggestions for school staff and adults on how to support this transition, particularly for anxious students while preparing for school reopening.

1. Validate, support, and listen to students: The recent events will likely have had substantial impacts on student's mental health. They may be experiencing a host of emotions regarding the announcement of new changes, including anxiety, disappointment, and anger. As teachers/educators, it is important to listen to students' concerns and, even if the emotions are extreme, express understanding and empathy. Letting families know you understand and appreciate their perspective will help open up a dialogue for problem solving.

2. Be honest and encouraging, rather than reassuring: Anxious students will likely need some initial assurance from trusted adults and teachers that returning to school is okay. However, blanket reassurance statements (e.g., everything will be fine; there is nothing to be worried about) can be invalidating and can create doubt and uncertainty that may drive a need for further reassurance. This cycle can lead to what is known as excessive reassurance seeking (child constantly asks if things are okay). Instead, being open, honest, and encouraging with students is a preferred approach. This may include acknowledging risks while emphasizing how precautions reduce those risks and how students can feel good about coming back to school given all of the thought and planning that has gone into protecting students. If students continue to seek reassurance, staff can encourage tolerance of uncertainty and teach students to use realistic thinking skills or learning to problem solve and come up with solutions to their own concerns where possible – "What can you do here to calm yourself down?" or "What options do we have here instead of just avoiding?" Educators can empower students by giving them the tools to identify the problem, identify possible solutions, pick a solution, and try it out.

3. Encourage a gradual approach, not avoidance: No amount of planning will prevent students from being anxious. Therefore, encouraging tolerance of fear and anxiety, rather than avoidance, will be essential. Fear naturally encourages a desire to run away, but this avoidance maintains anxiety in the long-run. In contrast, facing feared situations promotes resilience and reduces anxiety in the long-run by helping youth realize they are capable of coping. While being understanding and validating of students' anxiety, school staff should encourage and reinforce families in making attempts to face fears around returning to school. If significant anxiety prevents a direct transition back, establishing a plan for gradual re-entry to school may be necessary. For example, an anxious student may initially practice visiting the school on weekends before working towards partial attendance (e.g., specific hours, days, or classes) and then full attendance.

4. Praise and reward students for being courageous: As students return to school, praise them for showing courage in the face of fear and let them know that being brave and courageous will help them get through this together. When you see a student or fellow staff member do something that you know is hard for them or provokes anxiety, let them know you've noticed it and are proud of them for facing their fears courageously.

5. Model good coping behaviors for students – be calm, honest, and caring: Students will look to their teachers to be positive role models through this process. How you handle your fears, your own stress, and how you act throughout the day will impact how children assess their own situations and react. Telling students about your own experiences with anxiety and uncertainty, as well as your coping strategies, can make them feel less alone and can provide them with a guide for how to handle the situation themselves. In most cases it is appropriate to be open and honest with students in a developmentally appropriate way if they ask tough questions about the future. That may mean:

- Helping them understand that future school closures may be a possibility
- Acknowledging that their friends (or teachers) may become ill with COVID-19
- Being frank about other stressful situations that may occur during the upcoming school year that we haven't yet predicted

Teachers/Educators can let students know these situations can be upsetting to think about, but that we can try to take things one day at a time and enjoy the current day rather than worry about what the future holds – especially when that future can be somewhat uncertain. These are challenging discussions that aren't easy for anyone, but helping students develop an ability to be 'comfortable being uncomfortable' may help them cope with future anxieties.

6. Provide clear information to families as early as possible: Anxiety thrives on uncertainty and the COVID-19 pandemic is filled with it. While tolerating uncertainty will be required for families to some extent, school administrators and educators can ease the transition by working together to communicate frequently and clearly with families about what is planned for returning to school. Important information for families may include:

- Changes made at school
- Specific expectations for families

Lakeview School Classroom Updates

Grade 1

In the grade 1 classroom our theme for the month of February will be Valentine's Day and Family Day. We will be doing some activities around the importance of family and our role within the family. I'm hoping to include some videos of families participating in outdoor activities with a focus on our winter season and then have students share some of the fun activities they plan to do with their families on Family Day. As for Valentine's Day I will be demonstrating some Valentine art activities that students and parents can do together. The goal will be to create something they can share with our class and their family. The goal for the month of February is to make learning fun and to be supportive in any way possible to my students and their families.

Grade 3/4

Happy New Year and Greetings!

For the month of February, we are creating everything about love! Students will be creating art and learning complimentary colours, tertiary colours and design principles. Students will learn about oxytocin (the love chemical in our bodies). We will read stories of love, kindness, and joy. The month will be dedicated to the heart, the brain and love. Valentines' "R" us! Math? Well we are all going to love math!

Grade 5

Aanii kina gwiya and hap noweh!

Can you believe it? 2022 is here and we are nearing the midpoint of our first term. It doesn't feel like it was that long ago where we were welcoming students to classes for the beginning of our 2021-2022 academic year here at Lakeview School. As we gear up for February and March we prepare to welcome term two. Be on the lookout for conversations regarding reading and writing updated assessments. In class we are discussing some reading habits that elevate our comprehension and fluency. We are also studying a variety of writing forms including procedural, reports, and the writing process.

We also want to inform everyone that our Lakeview School Microhatchery project is up and running and we currently have roughly 15 000 brook trout eggs growing at our school. Over the years our microhatchery project has stocked over 100 000 brook trout and close to one million walleye fry into the M'Chigeeng Creek. All of the eggs we gather come from Lake Huron and complement our local aquatic habitat. Miigwech to all for your support over the years with this project. We hope for a return to outdoor learning in the near future as winter is a great time for us to get out on the land and learn about our community. If any members of our learning community have historical stories to share about our community we welcome the opportunity to learn from you. Contact Mr. Travis if you would like to share and perhaps we can arrange for a virtual lesson. As I wrap things up, a chi-miigwech goes out to our families. We know the challenge of working from home while your child/children learn online, or remotely can definitely be tough. If at any time you require support, please reach out to our staff via email or phone.

Wishing you all the best as we work through the first quarter of the year. Be safe, take care, kowaabinim.

Grade 8 Upcoming Important Dates

- MSS Virtual Presentation for Grade 8 students at 9:30 am on February 3, 2022.
- MSS Virtual Presentation for Parents of Grade 8 on February 10, 2022, at 6:30 pm. More registration details to follow closer to the date.
- SERT Team and/or Ashley will be in contact with parents about MSS Registration Forms sometime in the near future

EDUCATION COMMITTEE LOOKING FOR APPLICANTS

The Education Department is looking for committee members! Please contact Valerie O'Leary for details on how to apply! 705-377-5362 ext. 236
email: val.oleary@mchigeeng.ca

*MUST BE A BAND MEMBER AT LEAST 18 YEARS OR OLDER



Have a Heart Day

Have a Heart Day is a child and youth-led reconciliation event that brings together caring Canadians to help ensure First Nations children have the opportunity to grow up safely at home, get a good education, be healthy, and be proud of who they are.

This year is Have a Heart Day's 10th year anniversary!

Due to COVID-19, Have a Heart Day for 2022 will be commemorated at home or online. The national gathering on Parliament Hill has been canceled in keeping with local health restrictions and many people across Canada are following public health protocols that significantly limit gatherings. We are encouraging teachers, students, families and your household to celebrate the day in your classrooms, at home or online!

Even if we can't gather as we usually do, we can still honour the spirit of Have a Heart Day and stand up for love and fairness. Here are some ideas:

- Send a Valentine's Day card or letter supporting Have a Heart Day to the [Prime Minister](#) and your [Member of Parliament](#). Create your own card or letter or get creative using the letter or colouring pages found below.
- Spread the word and post photos of your Have a Heart Day letter, cookies, snow bear or however you choose to celebrate on social media! Use the hashtag #HaveAHeartDay and/or #JourneeAyezUnCoeur. Please follow us @CaringSociety and @SpiritBear on Twitter and @SpiritBearAndFriends on Instagram, and tag us in your festivities for a chance to be featured!
- Get creative by completing our Snow Bears Activity (below) or making some Have a Heart Day cookies with your class, group, or family. Find Spirit Bear's Bearcipe cards in the resources below!
- Host an online Valentine's Day party to raise awareness in your school or community. Choose a day leading up to Valentine's Day that makes sense for your class or community. Download and edit our [Have a Heart Day poster](#) to use for your event. Be sure to [register your Have a Heart Day celebration!](#)
- Bring reconciliation into the classroom to get your students ready. Do [Project of Heart](#). For other great ideas, visit the [Shannen's Dream School Resources page](#).

Explore the Have a Heart Day website for more ideas and to download Have a Heart Day resources! We will be updating our website and our social media leading up to #HaveAHeartDay, so stay connected!

Click on this [link](#) to hear Senator Kim Pate make a statement on Have a Heart Day, commending the children and emphasizing the importance of their cause. You can read Senator Pate's message for Have a Heart Day 2020 [here](#).

Through activities like Have a Heart Day, we are creating a movement where the landscape of Canada is only one of honour and possibility for First Nations children.

Visit the Have a Heart Gallery to see photos from events across Canada!

Reconciliation is all of us. [Read this information sheet](#) for ways you can help make a difference.

MFN Post-Secondary Updates

Remaining Student Deposit Dates

These are the following dates for the remaining student deposits for this academic year.

January 25th, 2022: February Deposit

February 25th, 2022: March Deposit

March 25th, 2022: April Deposit

Last date to apply for Funding for the 2022-2023 Academic year is MARCH 30th. Email correspondence has been sent out to students to inform everyone of the new online process on your 'Outcomes Student Portal'.

When submitting your documentation please refrain from screenshots as they are very hard to print and often illegible. We encourage PDF formatting.

Part-Time vs. Full-Time Students

To be recognized as a Full-Time student you must be registered with the full semester/term course-load as defined by the post-secondary institution.

The college/university determines if you are a full time or part time status. Students are required to submit a copy of their course registration and/or timetable verifying their full-time status at the beginning of each semester/term.

If you withdraw/drop a course(s) during the semester, you must also notify the post-secondary program and send the corresponding documentation.

Part-Time students are eligible only for tuition and books.

Health and Dental – Just a reminder that this is a fee that is not covered by MFN Post-Secondary. This is the student's responsibility to opt out if that is what you choose.

If you are going on Placement/Practicums for Winter 2022 you must inform the Post -Secondary Navigator. There is a form to complete indicating whether the placement is paid or unpaid. There is a tuition payment required for the practicum, therefore documentation is required from the student.

Monitoring your Student Portals/Accounts - This is your go-to for all your student information -contains important info-grades/fees due/registration. It is your responsibility to monitor your student portal and forward critical information. You should be able to send your final grades from here, any outstanding fees for your account will be shown here. It is very important that you monitor your student portal on a regular basis.

Probation: Students who did not maintain the recommended GPA outlined by your College/University for a semester/term you will be placed on probation and will receive information from the MFN Education Department regarding your probation and conditions.

Visit the M'Chigeeng website for additional post-secondary information, application forms and to keep up with current post-secondary information and highlights.

**BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR
UPCOMING WORKSHOPS FOR
OUR POST-SECONDARY
STUDENTS!**

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS EMAIL THE POST-SECONDARY NAVIGATOR AT POSTSEC@MCHIGEENG.CA

HIGHSCHOOL UPDATES

Remote Learning Updates (Manitoulin Secondary School)

Manitoulin Secondary School students have the choice of continuing with online learning if the parent(s) so choose.

If you decide to keep your child home for continued online learning please be aware that online learning will NOT include instructional supports. The student will be assigned school work through Google Classrooms and will be expected to complete these assignments and submit them back through the Google Classrooms program.

Please note that students must fill out a form to transition back to in-class learning if they so choose. Forms must be submitted by the deadline.

****Students who transition back into in person learning may not switch back to online learning unless there comes a time where the schools are required to close due to COVID.**

Students who need schoolwork delivered to their home can contact Justin Francis, Education Navigator to request these assistances.

Lakeview School Highschool Orientation

Lakeview School will be hosting virtual presentation from Manitoulin Secondary School. This is an orientation presentation for our grade 8 students. **Happening February 3rd, 2022 at 9:30am**

Justin Francis Contact Information

Education Navigator
justinf@mchigeeng.ca
(705)348-0282

NEW STUDENT APPLICATION PORTAL

The Post-Secondary Program will no longer be accepting applications via email. Students must use the links provided below. Current students will need to create a password using the student portal link. The program being used is called the **Outcomes Student Portal**. Updates have been made to the M'Chigeeng Website to accommodate these changes. If there any questions or issues regarding how to apply or how to work this new portal, contact Shelby Roy, Post-Secondary Navigator, to get more information or have your questions answered.

email: postsec@mchigeeng.ca
phone: 705-377-5362 ext.

**STUDENT CONTACT INFO
STUDENTS MUST ENSURE
THAT THEIR CONTACT INFO
IS ALWAYS CURRENT.
PLEASE NOTIFY OUR
OFFICE IF THERE IS A
CHANGE IN YOUR
CONTACT INFORMATION**

CAPITAL PROJECT & PUBLIC WORKS

Leaps & bounds, the CPPW program is moving along, and progress is being made, there have been changes with the program since I began my tenure with some challenges and success. The main challenge for me is getting to know the history of the community and direction taken in the past. I rely on some senior staff within the administration and community members who offer suggestions and guidance, this process is very helpful to ensure the community's needs are met.

With the introduction of the Housing Manager position the day-to-day operations of the housing program is starting to show progress, although there are bumps in the road with meeting members expectations these concerns are dealt with better planning and communication.

CPPW is busy working with the engineers & consultants moving some major and minor capital projects.

Solid Waste Study- Although this study was started some years ago the final document was received December 31st, 2021. The Project team along with leadership are preparing for the next step with the planning and design a new permanent transfer station and clean up of the old site.

Gaaming Lagoon- This project to was started some years ago, an updated costing submission was prepared for the government funding with negotiations for operation & maintenance funding still a concern. The project team is very optimistic that the government will fund the annual cost to operate the new system.

Lakeview Booster Station- Funding has been approved for the remediation for this facility, unfortunately delays with getting the generator and materials required to complete the project have caused delays, the project team is optimistic that the new piping, pumps and upgraded electrical system are completed this year.

Lakeview School- After the building assessment last year was completed some areas of concern are being addressed, some structural issues with the gym roof have been investigated with a plan for the remediation under way. Project team is preparing the documents for a feasibility for the school.

Other projects we are working on is updating the Capital Planning Study, Elevated Storage Reservoir (Water tower) remediation, Crosshill-Spring Bay watermain extension.

Operation & maintenance got some encouraging news mid-December, ISC offered to pay for the replacement of the 2007 firetruck, swift action from my office and supporting staff (fire dept) we were able to meet the 1-week deadline and 3 quotes, just before the Christmas break were received notification that our proposal was approved and M'Chigeeng will be getting a new fire truck this year. This type of message was received just a few days ago (Jan. 25th/22), again M'Chigeeng qualifies for a new water delivery truck, working with the crew we will be preparing the proposal and hopefully have a new water delivery truck later this year.

Water Disruption- January 27th, 2022, the water team was notified of a water main break approximately 9:30 am. The team swiftly went into action to investigate the leak and repair it. The 12" watermain on Hill St. that feeds the water tower ruptured causing the water tower to lose all the water and the main village to lose water pressure. The team mobilized and got the repair done and the community back online before 6:00pm the same day. Operators Allen & Bryan lead the repair with support from public works Mike & Sheldon, Chi-Miigwetch to E-Corbiere & sons who dropped the job they were working on to assist with the repair. Miigwetch to the staff who assisting with getting flyers out to the community and delivery of bottled water to some of the Elders.

"The combined results of several people working together is often much more effective than could be that of an individual scientist working alone." — John Bardeen

Miigwetch
Capital Projects & Public Works Manager
Murray McGregor
If you have any questions regarding this report do not hesitate to contact my office murraym@mchigeeng.ca

HOUSING DEPARTMENT UPDATES

JOHN STEWART -HOUSING MANGER

The Housing Department has once again been delayed from completing renovations for CMHC Phase II as we've been in Level Red. Housing has been able to complete some outside work and been assisting with a new coat of paint in the Complex.

As frigid temperatures stress furnaces and Heat Return Ventilation (HRV) systems in your home it's imperative to make sure external vents are clear of snow, filters are cleaned or replaced, fan belts are checked for wear or looseness. Remove snow and ice from roof overhangs. Check Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI) by depressing the test button, then the reset button to make sure they're functional. Change batteries in thermostats and test smoke/carbon monoxide detectors. Please call Housing with maintenance issues before they potentially evolve into a larger problem.

A reminder that the M'Chigeeng web site is a great resource for Housing information and Policies. For M'Chigeeng members interested in building, Housing can provide the prerequisites to finance building a house. To dispel any myths; essentially being able to put down five percent of the cost of a house and show consistent income enables you to build your own home.

A reminder that attending to regular maintenance in a rental unit is the tenant's responsibility. Here are some of the Tenant Covenants pertaining to maintenance as part of the agreement.

- d. The Tenant shall be strictly responsible for any damages to the rental premises of the First Nation used by the willful or negligent conduct of the Tenant, his/her family, visitors, and or any other persons whom he/she permits on the premises (i.e. window glass, doors, walls, etc.)
- e. The Tenant shall keep the premises clean, tidy and in good repair including the outside of the rental unit.
- m. The Tenant agrees to be considerate to other tenants, no excessive partying, playing loud music, etc.
- n. **The tenant agrees not to carry on or permit to be carried on the use of or trafficking of drugs or any other illegal activity whatsoever in the rental unit or on the rental unit property.**
- p. To maintain the rental unit in good condition and its subsystems in working order, and in the alternative at the sole option of M'Chigeeng, to reimburse or pay M'Chigeeng for repairs occasioned by the Tenant's failure to maintain.
- v. **The Tenant agrees to Not tamper with or disconnect any fire or smoke detectors installed in the rental unit. The tenant will test the Smoke detector on a monthly basis and notify the Housing Department immediately if it is not operating.**

A friendly reminder to all applicants currently on the waiting list, The Tenant Management Policy reads as follows:

7.2.3 All housing applications will be kept on file for a maximum period of one (1) year. Applicants are responsible to update their application; applications not updated every year will be considered inactive and will be removed from the file.

Please ensure you have submitted an updated application on a yearly basis to remain on the waiting list.

As members of M'Chigeeng we should be looking out for one another with this precarious weather. Helping each other, assisting those in need and looking out for the vulnerable makes us a strong and safe community.

John Stewart
Housing Department Manager
705 377 5362 Ext. 245
519 777 9792
johns@mchigeeng.ca

HIAH/FRESHMART UPDATE

An update on our staffing in the HIAH Department. Our Community Development Officer is away on leave. In the Community Development Officer's absence, Justeen Debassige will be the interim Community Development Officer until March 31st, 2022.

Aanii/Boozhoo Kina Wiya,

Justeen Debassige has joined the HIAH Corp., as the Interim Communication Development Officer for 3 months till March 31, 2022. She will be providing the following services:

- Support new and existing local M'Chigeeng businesses with acquiring and registering for their business license.
- Promote and support entrepreneurship training and development for community local businesses through workshop organization and delivery of business sessions.
- Promote and support business plan training and advisory services for local entrepreneurs with a focus on Tourism business development and promotion.
- Support local businesses requiring assistance in identifying and accessing funding in the Economic Development and Tourism sectors.
- Support community and infrastructure project applications for community development job creation.
- Develop linkages, networks, and contacts with established businesses, local and external service providers, and aspiring businesspeople and entrepreneurs from M'Chigeeng.
- Maintain the business register, identify local business opportunities, and participate in revenue generating activities of the Economic Development sector.

Contact information – Justeen Debassige by email at justeend@mchigeeng.ca or 705-377-5362 ext. 232

M'CHIGEENG
Freshmart

MFN GROCERY STORE
BOARD MEMBER – VACANCY (x3)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

APPLICATIONS

DEADLINE: OPEN UNTIL FILLED

M'Chigeeng First Nation Chief and Council, as the Shareholder, is accepting applications from interested Band Members for the appointment to the:

**Board of Directors
for the MFN Grocery Store GP INC.**

Who is Eligible: M'Chigeeng Band Member who is at least 18 years of age

BOARD MEMBER CRITERIA

Assets to consider when recruiting members for the MFN Grocery Store Board include:

- Desire and commitment to community development
- Previous experience in the business and training development fields
- Education or related work experience in economic, business, training, or financial development
- Ability to communicate in an effective manner

How to Apply: **Board Application** (available at Administration Office, mchigeeng.ca or can be emailed)

M'Chigeeng First Nation Chief and Council
P.O. Box 333, 53 Hwy 551
M'Chigeeng, Ontario P0P 1G0

The M'Chigeeng Administration Office hours of business 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Mon to Fri. (till 4:00 p.m.)

Term of Appointment: THREE (3) year term, or until June 2023 (end of current term).

Time Commitment: Board meeting is on a "monthly basis" with possibility of additional special meetings

Info. /Questions: For further information please contact:

- Daina Stevens, HIAH Corp. Administrative Assistant 705-377-5362 Ext. 232 dainas@mchigeeng.ca
- Grant Taibossigai, HIAH Corp. General Manager 705-377-5362 Ext. 231 grant@mchigeeng.ca

All new Board Members must successfully undergo MFN Grocery Store Board orientation



MFN GROCERY STORE INC.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

BOOKKEEPER

Salary: \$39,620 – \$43,680/year

Position Status: Full-Time Regular (40 hrs. per week)

Position Summary:

This position's responsibilities are to accurately record all day-to-day financial transactions/functions and complete payroll of the grocery store.

Reporting Relationship:

The Bookkeeper reports to the Grocery Store Manager or designate.

Essential Functions:

- Keep and file financial records and establish, maintain, and balance various accounts using Sage 50.
- Prepare, examine, and analyze accounting records, financial statements, monthly and annual forecasting, and other financial reports.
- Verify and reconcile documents such as invoices, contracts, orders, and vouchers.
- Review, investigate, and correct inconsistencies in financial entries, documents, and reports; and other duties as assigned.
- Must attend regular Board of Directors meetings to provide and present monthly financial updates to the Board of Directors

Qualifications and Requirements

Preferred

- Post-Secondary Degree or Diploma in accounting and/or business administration or equivalent working experience in a retail environment.
- Minimum 2 years successful work experience in a bookkeeping/financial role
- Working knowledge of a full accounting cycle

Minimum

- Must have OSSD or equivalent with related (5) years related work experience
- Must have demonstrated proficient use of computer software (i.e., Sage 50, Excel, Word,)
- Working knowledge of finances and office procedures

Other:

- Strong analytical skills, ability to multitask and prioritize and excellent time management and organizational skills

The successful candidate will be required to submit the following upon hire:

- Current thirty (30) day Police Criminal Reference Check (CRC)
- Confirmation of their COVID-19 Vaccinations

Interested applicants must submit COVER LETTER, RESUME, THREE (3) CURRENT WRITTEN REFERENCES (2 Work-Related references from a direct supervisor/manager and 1-character reference) and education certifications addressed to:

CONFIDENTIAL

You may drop off your resume at 404 ON-551 M'CHIGEENG, ON P0P 1G0

c/o Sean Gray, MFN Grocery Store Manager

OR email resumes to gsmanager@mchigeengfreshmart.ca

LATE OR INCOMPLETE applications will not be considered and only applicants selected for an interview, will be contacted.

For a complete job description, please contact Sean Gray at gsmanager@mchigeengfreshmart.ca

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2022, AT 3 P.M.

ONTARIO WORKS/LDM DEPARTMENT

Ontario Works – LDM Department:

Ahnii, this is an update for the month of February 2022. All OW-LDM staff will be returning to work for January 31st, 2022. The measures will be under the reopening plan for the M'Chigeeng First Nation Administration Office.

The Ontario Works Program will be continuing to accept **OW applications by phone**, please contact **April Corbiere** to schedule an appointment or any inquiries. **For all existing clientele we will be requiring documentation again effective January 31st, 2022, documentation can be delivered by mail, Fax OR delivered outside the Band Office in the drop box.** **April Corbiere – Community Placement Worker** aprilc@mchigeeng.ca Ext. 238

Ontario Works will be continuing to assist clientele with Covid-19 measures for Basic Needs, emergency measures related to Covid-19, please contact Colleen Debassige if you require assistance.

Ontario Works - LDM will be continuing to administer the **M'Chigeeng Food Depot** for February 2022. If you require **emergency food assistance**, please contact **Diane Debassige and Abigail Paul. Requests must be prior to 1:30pm each day Monday to Friday. The Food Depot is available to all community members that require emergency assistance.** **Diane Debassige – LMI Coordinator** dianed@mchigeeng.ca Ext. 227; **Abigail Paul – LDM Training Development Officer** abigailp@mchigeeng.ca Ext. 225

MFN Ontario Works assists with **Employment Insurance applications**, please **contact Colleen Debassige at 705 377 5362, Ext. 222 or** colleend@mchigeeng.ca.

Addictions Service Initiative – ASI is continuing with intakes for any supports to address addictions, the program's targeted group is primarily Ontario Works clientele. ASI is continuing to partner with programs and agencies to enhance the program's effectiveness. Call if you would like to schedule an appointment, **Joan Hoakstra – ASI** joanh@mchigeeng.ca Ext 219.

Joan Hoakstra will be continuing to assist with Wellness checks for the Elderly and Vulnerable for the month of February 2022

LDM PROGRAM

The **LDM Program** accepts applications in all areas with skills development, Purchase of Training, Targeted Wage Subsidy, Self Employment Assistance, Mobility, Employment Insurance applications and Employment Supports. Applications can be completed by email or by phone.

Labour Market Information

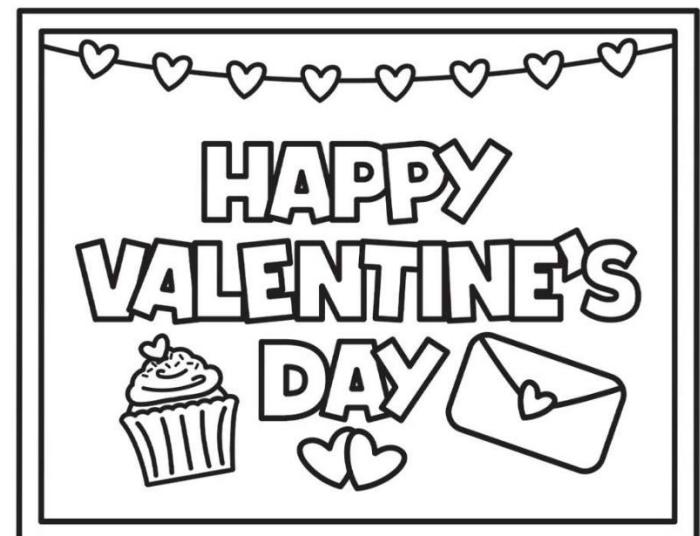
(LMI) Project Labour Market Information surveys, participants completing a survey are paid an incentive.

The Ontario Works/LDM Department will be following all reopening plans for Covid-19 measures for the safety of the clients and staff. If you have an inquiry, please contact the office.

John Ense Department Manager OW/LDM johne@mchigeeng.ca Ext. 215 or Cell # 705 936 6761

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Name Gizhgot	Shkwaan-Name Gizhgot	Niizh Giizhgot	Zozep Giizhgot	Spiniganwan	Jibbato Giizhgot	Maanii Giizhgot
			1 Vaccination Clinic Ages 5-11 year old please call Health Centre for appointment ONLINE BINGO	2 Groundhog Day 	3 Baby Food Making Virtual Event 7pm-HBHC	4 5
6	7 Community Health Nurse (Job Posting Due) MSS Return to four class period days for semester 2		8 9 Shadow Box making ages 0-6 HBHC Program In Clinic Dr. Daniels 9am3:30 Health Centre		10 C&C Meeting 6:30 pm Virtual	11 12
13 Special Valentine's Day Online BINGO	14 Valentine's Day Valentine's Day Celebration in class LVS Executive4 Assistant & Alternatives Program Worker (Job Postings Due)	15  Vaccination Clinic Ages 5-11 year old please call Health Centre for appointment Dr Clinic 10-3pm Adults Dr Clinic 3-5:30 pm Children ONLINE BINGO	16 Culture and Language Facilitator & System Navigator (Job Postings Due) OW Income statements due		17 Random Acts of Kindness Day 	18 In Clinic Dr. Lorraine McDonald 9am -3:30 Health Centre
20	21 Family Day OFFICES CLOSED 		22 23 In Clinic Dr. Lorraine McDonald 9am -3:30 Health Centre		24 C&C Meeting 6:30 pm Virtual	25 26
27	28 In Clinic Dr. Daniels 9am3:30 Health Centre			Remaining Student Deposit Dates These are the following dates for the remaining student deposits for this academic year. January 25th, 2022: February Deposit February 25th, 2022: March Deposit March 25th, 2022: April Deposit		



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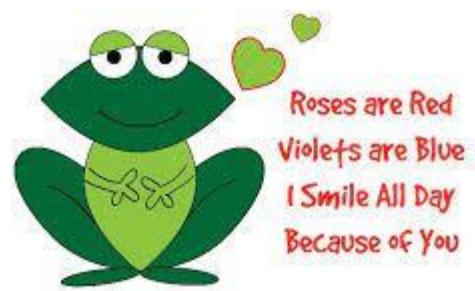
VALENTINE'S DAY

Across:
 1. HEARTS
 2. ROSES
 3. CANDY
 4. RED
 5. PINK
 6. CUPID
 7. LOVE
 8. FRIEND

Down:
 1. S

CLUES:

- HEARTS
- ROSES
- CANDY
- RED
- PINK
- CUPID
- LOVE
- FRIEND



ROSES ARE RED
 VIOLETS ARE BLUE
 KISSES & HUGS

I Love You!



HAPPY, VALENTINE'S DAY



© Kids Yoga Stories

