

M'CHIGEENG



EAC MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 23, 2023 - 10:00 a.m. Present:

M'Chigeeng First Nation Election
Appeals Committee Members ("EAC"):
GraceDebassige
ErnestineDebassige
TonyaArmstrong
Winnie Panamick
Legal Counsel R. Martin Bayer, Weaver
Simmons LLP

- I. The EAC discussed the numerous grievances and appeals which had been sent into the EAC from the voters of M'Chigeeng and which had also been sent in to the Administration office following the decision by the EAC to disqualify a number of candidates for failing to comply with the CRC requirements found in the M'Chigeeng First Nation Custom Election Code 2019.
- 2. EAC members found this section of the Code to be very confusing and was

causing a lot of the confusion among candidates who had been nominated and other members of the community;

- 3. Some EAC members also shared instances of being threatened by some of the community members following their decision to disqualify some candidates;
- 4. As a result, and in response to the concerns and appeals filed with the EAC, the EAC made the following decisions:
- 1. First, that the election scheduled for Monday, March 27, 2023 is cancelled and a new election date is set for Saturday, May 13, 2023, with polls opening from 9:00a.m. until 6:00 p.m. at the M'Chigeeng Community Complex;
- 2. Second, that there will be an Advance Poll to be held on Saturday, April 22, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. at the M'Chigeeng Community Complex;
- 3. Third, that new ballots will be sent out

What's inside

Page 5

Lakeview School

Classroom updates, the Fish Hatchery Program, and much more!

Page 10

Public Works

It's almost time for the annual Spring Cleanup!

Page 11

Post-Secondary, Family Resources

Post-Sec Applications are due! Welcoming new staff at Family Resources.

Page 12

Binoojiinh Gamgoonhs

April is Autism Awareness Month! Peek inside the Preschool Room!

Page 13

Membership

Membership updates, reminders and important FYI's

Page 14

Asset Management

Delivering Community Services in a sustainable way

Page 15

HIAH Corp

Business Recovery Program, Board Member Vacancies

to the off-reserve voters on April 11, 2023 which will meet the requirements under the Code at section 2 (2) (e);

4. Fourth, that the candidates who were disqualifiedfornotmeetingtherequirements related to the Criminal Record Check, are reinstated and are no longer disqualified;

(continued on page 2...)

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- 5. Fifth, those candidates who were disqualified for not meeting the Criminal Records Check must submit their CRC's by April 8, 2023 and the CRC must include their Criminal Record Check, up to and including February 13, 2023. Any Criminal Record Check that is dated before this date will not be accepted. It must be a record of any convictions up until February 13, 2023, the date of the Nomination Meeting. But the CRC that is received that includes any convictions up until February 13, 2023 will be accepted until April 8, 2023;
- 6. Sixth, any ballots cast at the Advance Poll of Wednesday, March 22, 2023 will be invalid and not counted and any mail in ballots received as of March 23, 2023 will also not be counted. The new mail in ballots will go out to off-reserve voters on April 11, 2023 and they will be counted at the election on Saturday, May 13, 2023;
- 7. Seventh, that the current Chief and Council's term of office is extended until Saturday, May 13, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.
- 8. In an effort to provide more support and guidance to the work of the Electoral Officer, the EAC will be meeting weekly with the Electoral Officer and the Deputy Electoral Officer beginning on April 6, 2023 and continuing each week until April 27, 2023. This will help to ensure the election takes place smoothly.

Finally, the EAC strongly recommends that the new Council amend this Code to make it clearer to interpret and wishes to say chi-milgwetch for your patience and understanding during this difficult time.

M'Chigeeng First Nation Chief & Council Elections

Official List of Candidates for CHIEF

CORBIERE, RENEE	ENSE, FLOYD
DEBASSIGE, LINDA	TRUDEAU, WAYNE

Official List of Candidates for COUNCILOR

DEBASSIGE, MARTIN		
DEBASSIGE, MELANIE		
DEBASSIGE, SAM		
DEBASSIGE, STEVEN		
DEBASSIGE, TERRY		
ENSE, DEBORAH		
ESHKAWKOGAN, JOSH		
PATRICK (KEVIN)		
HARE, THOMAS		
MCLEOD MIGWANS, JASON		
(YAL)		
MIGWANS, HENRY		
MIGWANS, LYNN		
PANAMICK, ANDREA		
PANAMICK, HENRY SR.		
PANAMICK, JAMES SR.		
PANAMICK, MARTIN		
TOEG, NEDA		

Cynthia Behm, Electoral Officer

APRIL 2023



SUN		9 Easter Egg Hunt			. 316
	2	6 East	9	23	0 ***
SAT		Chief & Council Candidate's CRC Deadline		Advance Poll 9:00AM - 6:00pm	
S	_	∞	হ	22 Adva 9:00AM	29
FRI		7 GOOD FRIDAY (Admin Office Closed)	Story Time with Nookmis	21 Story Time with Nookmis	28 Story Time with Nookmis
THU		b Turtle Concepts Anishinaabemowin Class Mom & Baby Social EAC Meeting	13 Anishinaabemowin Class Mom & Baby Social	20 Anishinaabemowin Class Mom & Baby Social	27 Anishinaabemowin Class Mom & Baby Social
WED		Turtle Concepts Turtle Concepts GOOD FRIDAY Anishinaabemowin Class Anishinaabemowin Class (Admin Office Closed) Family Drop-In Baby Social EAC Meeting	12 Anishinaabemowin Class Family Drop-In		25 Anishinaabemowin Class, Anishinaabemowin Class Anishinaabemowin Class Language Night Family Drop-In Mom & Baby Social Women's Group
TUE		4 Anishinaabemowin Classi Language Night Women's Group	Anishinaabemowin Class, Anishinaabemowin Class, Anishinaabemowin Class, Anishinaabemowin Class, Anishinaabemowin Class, Women's Group Off-Res voter ballots mailed	18 Anishinaabemowin ClassAnishinaabemowin Class Language Night Family Drop-In Women's Group Covid Vaccine Clinic	25 Anishinaabemowin Class Language Night Women's Group
NOM		Mom & Baby Social Motion Mondays Autism Awareness Day (wear blue!)	1O EASTER MONDAY (Admin Office Closed)	17 Mom & Baby Social Motion Mondays	24 Mom & Baby Social Motion Mondays





Lakeview School continues long standing Fish Hatchery program

t was a cold, sunny, and crisp day as the grade seven and grade eight students successfully planted 10,000 brook trout eggs into the M'Chigeeng creek. Students were delighted and appreciative to participate in the mico fisheries program at Lakeview School.

In February, students were excited to have delivery of wild brook trout eggs all the way from Lake Nipigon, Ontario. Once the eggs were securely placed in the hatcheries, the learning opportunities began, and students were busy with stewardship duties. The eggs take about 6-8 weeks to hatch. During this time, students participated in a wide variety of learning activities and events.

The micro fisheries program started in 2015, and has experienced great success. According to past reports, approximately up to 530,000 walleye and brook trout eggs have been successfully released into the creek. This year another 10,000 brook trout have been added.

The students were proud and excited to take part in this program.

From the Principal's Desk

anii M'Chigeeng!
The students continue to work hard and appear to be enjoying learning together! It's great to see their work displayed in the hallways! The students are very creative!

The grades 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 created some amazing Clay-Motion Anishinaabemowin videos, demonstrating their creativity and passion to learn and continue to use Anishinaabemowin. Miigwech to everyone that came to Lakeview for the screening event! Gchi miigwech Miss Lissa and Miss Lorraine for being so creative as well!

The grade 8 students were great at leading an assembly to recognize International Women's Day. We certainly have some future leaders at Lakeview!



International Women's Day

Emma Morrison (Miss World Canada 2022) visits Lakeview on International Women's Day.

Lakeview School

(continued from page 2)

I hope that everyone enjoyed their time with family and friends for March Break. It is definitely a time for students and staff to recharge and be able to return to Lakeview with renewed energy to continue for the remainder of the school year.

Lakeview School hosted the Island Basketball tournament on Monday, March 6, 2023. It was a great opportunity for our students to interact with students from other Island schools and support the grade 6 class in their fundraising for their year-end class trip.

Lakeview School will be celebrating Indigenous Languages Day on Friday, March 31, 2023. The students will participate in various Language activities throughout the day and we will celebrate with a Feast for the students as well!

Please stop by anytime to visit Lakeview to interact with your child/ren's classroom!
We would love to see you here!

Miigwech!

Gayle Payette, Principal

gaylep@lakeviewschool.ca 705-377-4988 or 705-368-6434





The Grade 2 students at Lakeview School are excited for spring and have a lot of pep in their step! As always, we are focused on learning together as a classroom community while using the 7 Grand-Father Teachings to guide us and our character education.

We have highly enjoyed numerous outdoor learning experiences such as: ice fishing, making rabbit stew, fileting fish and walking in the woods to explore the land. We have also enjoyed skating at the local arena. In the New Year, the "Terrific Twos" resumed drumming and singing with Ms. Geraldine Ense. When we drum we feel connected to culture, tradition and language. It is powerful!

The curriculum that Grade 2 is covering this month includes:

Language - Inferring Reading Strategies (Does it make sense? Does it look right? Does it sound right?) Writing Narratives (Simple Stories and Animal Fables)

Math - Measurement and Length

Science - Understanding Matter & Energy (Property of Solids + Liquids)

Social Studies- People + Environments: Global Communities

Drama - Dance

Visual Arts - Principles of Design

Please continue to support your child's learning at home by asking them questions about their day at school, studying the "Words of the Week" and by reading together as often as possible. Reading is the gateway to all other academic success! An early bedtime is also important for productivity at school. Miigwech for all that you do!

Yours in learning,

Ms. Gratton B.A, B.Ed and OCT

Terrific Twos at Lakeview School! Spring has Sprung









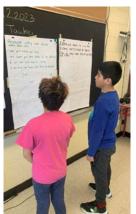
Grade 2's on the Ice!

From left to right; Greyson skating with Sheila, Jasper & Ms. G, Everly with Ms. G













Peek inside the Grade 3 Classroom!

Top left; Sandy building a bank as part of our Money unit in Math.

Top right; Gavin and Zack working on Measurement.

Middle; Colton, Jase, and Noah M. Playing UNO.

Bottom left; Hope and Colton completing a gallery walk/review of classmates' writing.

Bottom centre; Sandy and Kaysia workin gon classification for the 100th Day of School

Bottom right; Noah E. Working on equations with our SmartBoard.

Aanii From the Grade 3 Classroom!

We have many exciting learning opportunities in our classroom! Grade 3 is comprised of artists, mathematicians, storytellers, builders, but above all, each student is an active and contributing member of our classroom community.

Our classroom philosophy is that everyone has their gifts, and those gifts make us unique and special. We use our gifts to not only achieve our own success, but to use our gifts to be helpful and supportive when and where we can. Presenting opportunities for our young learners to be helpers and "experts" in their own right are the seeds of leadership and confidence for a lifetime of learning!

Grade 3 are currently developing their skills in persuasive writing, and creating meaningful arguments. We can't just say "because", we need to state the "why" and the "how."

Our students will create either independent goals and/or whole class goals. Whole class goals keep students accountable to themselves and each other, encouraging a collective commitment to learning and achievement.

Currently, students are having weekly spelling challenges. We set a goal to achieve a 'pass', but our students are outshining that goal, and achieving 80-100% accuracy! They select their classroom rewards (eg. bring in a toy on Friday, extra time outside or in the gym, etc.) This has been an excellent motivator, and it is something they support each other with, and can celebrate together. To the left you'll see pictures of some of our daily adventures and experiences here in Grade 3.

"Connecting with Nature"



Saturday	17	∞	15	22	29	
Friday		7 Good Friday – No School	14, ~ Gr. 8 Grilled Cheese Sale ~ Hat Day ~ Superhero Day	Earth Day Activities! ~ Gr 8. Pizza Sale	28 PD Day – No school for Students	
Thursday		6 Easter Activities ~ Gr. 3 KD & Hotdog Sale	13	20	27 Pajama Day	
Wednesday		5 Gr. 5 Walking the Path Grad	12 HOT LUNCH	19 HOT LUNCH	26	
Tuesday		4	Gr 8. Kernel's Popcorn Sale & 50/50 Sale	18 Island Badminton in AOK	25	
Monday		3 Autism Awareness Day – Wear Blue!	10 Easter Monday – No School	17	24 World Book Day!	
Sunday		2	6	16	23	30

Public Works Department Spring update

anii & Happy Spring M'Chigeeng, hope all is well! The Public Works Department would like to say a big Chi-Miigwetch to all that came out to the community's winter carnival this past month! It was truly a blast with you all, we had a great time sharing our experience with you! We truly enjoyed our day with the community!

Here in the Public Works Department, we're keeping quite busy with the transition of the seasons. From 4am plowing mornings to shoveling gravel and patching potholes. We are ready for spring! We are more than excited for the warmer weather, it was very much missed! With the warmer weather approaching, the Public Works Crews are working away at ditching, trenching, patching and of course, spring clean up. Annually, the Public Works

Spring Cleaning
Just Ahead

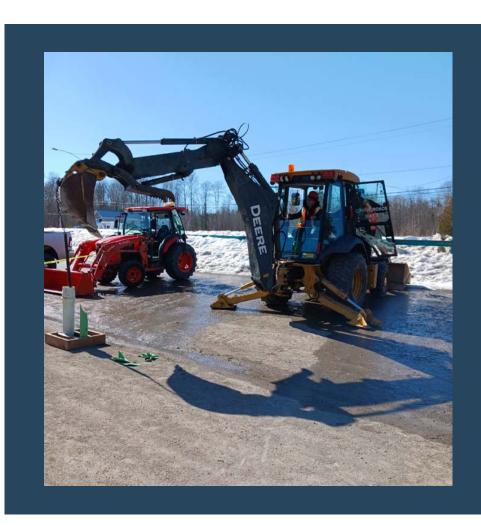
Department performs spring clean up. This spring clean up will take place April 17th to April 21st. should you have major garbage disposal, please place at end of your driveway, and please contact Treena Debassige, the Public Works Manager at the Administrative Office to arrange pick up.

The Public Works Department would like to take this time to notify the community about local road work to happen ahead. You could find us working away on various

roadways performing ditching, trenching and road repairs throughout the community. We would like to share with the community some information about potholes. Pot holes occur when the water freezes and thaws over and over, the pavement will weaken and continue cracking. As the weight of vehicles pass over the weaken spots, the pieces of the roadway material weaken, which will cause more of the material to be displaced of broken down from weight as well as speed. We highly encourage following posted speed limits as this a huge factor in road deterioration. Currently, there is a weight restriction being enforced here on the First Nations roads. The Public Works Department will notify the public when the weight restrictions are lifted.

Please keep an eye out for more information that will soon be released about Waste Management and Curbside Collection from the Public Works Manager. Until then, we will see you around this month, M'Chigeeng! We look forward to writing to you soon!

Treena Debassige, Public Works Manager.



Post-Secondary Support Program

MFN Post Secondary application for funding deadline was March 30, 2023. Applicants, please ensure both parts are completed - the online student portal and the MFN package. If you require assistance, please contact our office. Any applications received after this date will be placed on the waitlist. Please allow time for the Education Department to review the applications submitted. If you have any questions or inquires regarding your application, please contact our office. If we require further clarification or additional documentation our office will be in contact with the applicant. If you are still considering attending pursuing post-secondary studies. Applicants are still encouraged to apply for funding with MFN Post Secondary.

You can find our application here: https://mchigeeng.ca/post-secondary/

Reminders:

- Last deposit date for the 2022-2023 academic year for full-time students is March 25th, 2023. If you are a continuing student and you have submitted your application by the deadline of March 30th your student allowance will not be affected.
- Please submit your UNOFFICIAL



Transcript with your final grades posted. You can upload to your student portal or send it to postsec@mchigeeng.ca

- All continuing and waitlisted applicants are required to re-submit their funding applications for every new academic year (2023-2024)
- Students going on placements, please submit your placement practicum form found on our website. Once completed please submit to postsec@mchigeeng.ca or upload to your student portal.
- f you experience any issues with the student portal, please let us know so

we can address the issue. Upcoming:

- Post Secondary Guidelines Review sessions for new and continuing students.
- Graduate Incentive Application will become available soon to those who have completed/graduated from their programs from April 2022 – April 2023. Graduates MUST apply for this incentive.

Shelby Roy & Justeen Debassige MFN Post Secondary postsec@mchigeeng.ca 705-377-5362 ext. 221 or 224

M'Chigeeng Family Resources

Aanii kina weyaa;

There has been staffing changes that took place in the month of February in the Family Resources Department. We would like to welcome Iris Corbiere as the Office Assistant. Tanika Debassige is the interim Community Support Worker. Edward Paibomsai and Josh Linklater-Wong are M'Chigeeng's new Band Representatives. Welcome Iris, Tanika, Ed and Josh!

If you would like to contact us or for more information, please do not hesitate to reach out to the staff.

Thank you.

Family Resources Staff List

Iris Corbiere Office Assistant
Roger Beaudin Interim FR Supervisor
Leslie Corbiere Band Rep
Lisa Peltier Band Rep
Edward Paibomsai Band Rep
Josh Linklater-Wong Band Rep
Tanika Debassige Family Support Worker

Spring is here, so let's get out and enjoy the beautiful weather. Mii gwetch,

M'Chigeeng Family Resources









Autism Acceptance Month - Binoojiinh Gamgoonhs

anii Kina Wiiya!
I hope you are enjoying this beautiful weather and if you're anything like me, happy it's finally Spring! This month, I wanted to send along some information regarding The Importance of Early Intervention. Early Intervention is important for not only your child's development, but also their overall well-being.

When a concern about development is identified, we encourage families to seek intervention as soon as possible. The first step includes creating a referral (which can be done through me), and then together, we will come up with a plan and implement the required support services.

This can include supports like Speech Therapy, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Behaviour Intervention, and more! When the need for support is identified, professionals in their field come into the centre, to work with your child. These professionals can provide resources, assistance, and information to both you and the educators in the centre, to best care for your child.

Each support the child receives, follows a general scope that encourages specific developmental milestones and skills, but to the child it feels like playing. We recognise that each child is a unique individual, and because I have personally met with the professionals working with the children in our care, I know that they adapt their program to each child's specific needs and create an educational, comfortable, and fun environment for them.

Early Intervention can also enhance relationships, improve difficult behaviour, promote future success in school, and make learning fun. Recent research on brain development reassures us that "Earlier IS Better", when it comes to teaching and supporting young children. By age 3 most of the major brain structures are mature, and so it becomes more difficult to re-train the brain to make significant changes in a child's growth and development after this time.

For more information on child development and important milestones visit www.firstwordsproject.com

On another note, I wanted to let you all know that April is Autism Acceptance Month. Throughout this month, I encourage you to investigate the importance of understanding and acceptance while working with/ living with children who have an Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis. 1 in 66 children have Autism in Canada, making it the most common developmental disability in children. More than half of these children, receive their diagnosis before the age of 6. If you have reason to believe your child may be on the Autism spectrum, speak to your family doctor or a pediatrician. Also, don't hesitate to reach out to me for more information and referrals to best support your child's overall wellbeing and development.

For more information visit www. autismspeaks.org

Miigwetch, and Happy April! Kaelyn Moor, DSW Resource Teacher

Binoojiinh Gamgoonhs Senior Preschool

Sheila and Florita are the Educators in the Jr. Kindergarten Program.

n February 22, Everyone in the Center — including all the Staff — participated in the Pink T-Shirt, Anti Bully Day. On March 4, Daycare participated in the Winter Carnival which was a success. The children all had a wonderful time at the Complex.

In our program, we have completed our Shape Book and are near the end of our Color Book. We are continuing to work with Cutting Skills, sensory activities, name tracing and writing, letter recognition and names, concepts, counting with numbers, patterns and matching, drawing, coloring and painting. Working on our selfhelp skills and social interactions are coming along. Spring is around the corner and with the change in weather we would like to remind parents and guardians to make sure children dress properly every day for outdoor play.

Baamaapii,

Sheila (RECE) Florita

Membership Reminders

Membership Office and Healthy Babies Healthy Children program are establishing a partnership to assist community members and MFN citizens with Indigenous Services Canada Child Registrations & Ontario Birth Certificate applications. Crystal Corbiere and myself will be co-facilitating these sessions for parents, guardians, and/or grand-parents. Please call for more information. Also, keep in mind that with the new election of 2023, committee members will be recruited to work on behalf of MFN departments/boards/organizations. MFN Membership/Citizenship committee is greatly needed to co-manage the direction of MFN Belonging Law and MFN Membership Code for membership applications to be processed in a timely manner according to the policy/codes. The committee will also be needed to forward their recommendations to Chief & Council. Please, provide your Membership Committee Letter of Interest to M'Chigeeng Chief and Council as soon as you can.

For all newly entitled individuals:

Should you choose to apply with M'Chigeeng First Nation Membership, please be sure to send in your updated contact information. Full Name, Indian Registration Number, phone number, email, and permanent mailing address. This office will be mailing MFN membership applications out to you in the very near future.

As a friendly reminder, if you've had a significant change to your ISC registry information such as Births, Marriages, Divorces, Confirmed Deaths and/or Band Transfers, your Registry Page needs updating with Indigenous Services Canada. This required information can also include changes to names (surnames, given name, birth name or alias), birthdates, province of residence which also involves whether you reside ON or OFF Reserve, parental information (including amending a Father's information or adding a father), your Category Code, any new spousal information or request to have your own registry number amended. These will all require forms to be sent in to ISC.

Should you have any questions regarding the above information, please make contact with this office to schedule an appointment.

Miigwech

Dianne Debassige



Asset Management: Delivering Services in a Sustainable Way

hat's new this spring? MFN has started a new project called the Asset Management Study. The kick-off meeting was held with Dillon Consulting on March 22, 2023. Through the

icebreaker question, we heard about excitement for spring, in seeing the ice melt, in smelling the fresh air, in tasting the maple syrup and seeing the spring flowers popping up soon.

As the snow melts you will likely be seeing more signs of spring. Healthy assets are the foundation of a safe and healthy community.

Asset management is an approach that communities can use to make informed decisions about their infrastructure. Many communities see asset management and an important step on the path to greater self-reliance. The infrastructure is expected to deliver service to the community every day and through all seasons.

STAGE 1: Introduction to Asset Management and Policy

Late March to mid April 2023



Late April to early July 2023



Mid July to November 2023

Asset management provides a means for elected officials and administrators to demonstrate the value of infrastructure planning and maintenance while balancing social, environmental and economic factors.

The first stage is an introduction to asset management and the development of a policy. The policy will highlight the benefits and outcomes of asset management including:

- Investing wisely over the long term
- Balancing operations, risks and costs
- Providing our community with the right service at the optimal cost
- Keeping our community's future needs in mind

The second stage will be the development of the State of Infrastructure Report. This will form the main part of the asset management plan and will speak to all infrastructure that is owned by MFN for delivering services to the community.



Roads

Paved, Surface Treated, Gravel, Earth Surface Ditching, Culverts, Trails



Water

Watermain, Cisterns, Water Tower, Water Treatment Plant



Sanitary

Sewers, Lift Station, Septic Tank Beds



Buildings & Facilities

Band Admin Office, Community Arena, Community Complex, Saswaanhs Spiritual Centre, Fire Hall, Municipal Garage, Health Centre, Lakeview School, Youth SCentre, Wellness Centre, MFN Business Development Centre, Private Dwellings, etc.



Vehicles & Equipment

Grader, Tractors, Zambonis, Backhoe, Department Vehicles

The third stage of the project includes developing an asset management strategy that will be based on taking a lifecycle approach and the financing strategy required to maintain levels of service. At the end of the project there will be a presentation to Council and the Community. This is planned for November 2023.

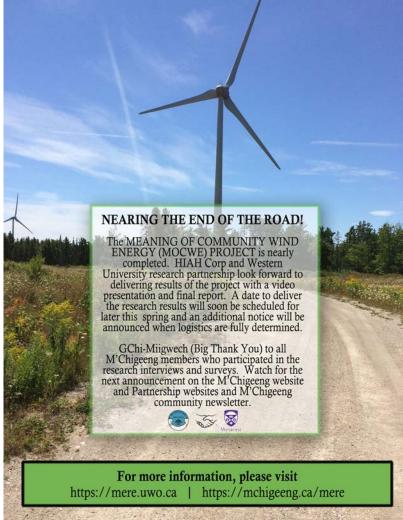
We look forward to providing an update as the project springs into action.



Board Member Vacancies

here are currently vacancies on the following boards; HIAH Corp, MERE General Partner Inc., and the MFN Grocery Store. Eligible applicants are any M'Chigeeng Band Members who are at least 18 years of age and as further outlined in By-Law No. 1 (A By-Law Relating Generally to the Transaction of the Business and Affairs of 2352921 Ontario Inc., (HIAH Eco Dev LP).

If you are interested in applying for a Board of Director position, please visit https://mchigeeng.ca/hiah-corp/



Business Recovery Program

Dear, M'Chigeeng Local Businesses.

Our Economic Development office has received information regarding a "Business Recovery Program" offered by the Waubetek Business Development Corporation. We are sharing this information as you may qualify for this business financing program.

The Business Recovery Fund Financing program consists of a loan of up to \$50,000 of that 50% is a non-repayable portion, and 50% is a repayable portion that is amortized over 24 months with an interest rate of 0%.

Please visit https://mchigeeng.ca/hiah-corp/ for more information and to apply. The deadline for this application is March 31, 2023.

Should you have any questions or require assistance in your application, please call our office at (705) 377 5362 extension 231, or email us at grantt@mchigeeng.ca

Grant Taibossigai, General Manager M'Chigeeng Economic Development HIAH Corp M'Chigeeng First Nation

