

MONTHLY COMMUNITY UPDATE – OCTOBER 2026

A Message from Gimaa Glen Hare

Aanii M'Chigeeng Community,

As we begin October, I want to take some time to reflect on the work that took place throughout September and share some of what is coming up for our community this month.

September was a busy month for M'Chigeeng. There were many opportunities for us to come together as a community, celebrate our culture, continue important governance work, invest in our staff and facilities, and begin conversations about our priorities for the years ahead.

As we move through this new term, our responsibility is to look not only at the challenges in front of us today, but also at what we are building for our children, our youth, our families, and the generations that will follow.

Celebrating Our Culture

We began September with our annual M'Chigeeng Pow Wow, and it was a wonderful way to start the month.

Our Pow Wow is always an important opportunity to showcase who we are and how proud we are of our culture, traditions, and community. It was great to see so many community members, families, dancers, drummers, vendors, and visitors come together to share in our culture.

To everyone who helped organize, volunteer, participate, and welcome our visitors, Miigwetch.

Events like our Pow Wow remind us of the strength of our community and the importance of creating opportunities for our youth and future generations to experience, learn, and carry forward our culture.

Governance and Leadership

Chief and Council held regular meetings on September 1st and September 17th as we continue working through the responsibilities of our new term.

On September 12th, Chief and Council held the first part of our Strategic Planning Session. This was an important opportunity for Council to step away and begin looking at the bigger picture for M'Chigeeng.



The second part of our planning session will take place on October 15th, when Council will continue developing our priorities and direction for the 2026–2029 term.

As Gimaa, I have continued attending the weekly Department Manager meetings. These meetings allow me to stay informed about the work taking place across our organization, the progress being made within our departments, and the challenges and opportunities identified by our operational team.

I also attended the UCCMM Board Meeting on September 28th, continuing to represent M'Chigeeng and remain engaged with our partners.

Members of our Council also participated in the RHT Leadership Gathering in Wasauksing on September 7th and 8th. These opportunities are important for maintaining relationships, sharing information, and ensuring that M'Chigeeng remains engaged in broader discussions that affect our Nation and our people.

Investing in Our People

Strengthening our organization means investing in the people who provide services and programs to our community.

On September 22nd and 23rd, our Department Managers, Managers, and Supervisors participated in Financial Training Professional Development through AFOA, held here at the M'Chigeeng First Nation Community Complex.

Strong financial knowledge and understanding are important parts of good administration and accountability. Continuing to invest in professional development helps strengthen our organization and supports our staff in carrying out their responsibilities.

Our staff are an important part of the work we do every day, and continuing to build their knowledge, skills, and confidence benefits the entire community.

Community Infrastructure

One of the things I want our community to recognize is the amount of work that continues to happen around M'Chigeeng.

On September 12th, our new MFN Dock reopened for community use following the replacement of the old dock. This is an important improvement to a community facility that many of our members enjoy and use.

We will officially celebrate the work completed with the Grand Re-Opening of the MFN Dock, Community Complex and Arena on October 17th at 2:00 p.m.

I encourage everyone to come out and celebrate with us.

There has been significant work taking place across our facilities, including:

- The replacement and improvement of the MFN Dock
- Fresh exterior painting on community buildings
- Renovations within the Community Complex
- Upgrades to the Community Complex kitchen and equipment
- Arena improvements
- Improvements to office spaces for our programs and services
- Improvements to Lakeview School Building & Privacy Fence Installation
- Gaaming Village Wastewater Lagoon Upgrade
- Continued work on our community infrastructure

Sometimes we drive past these projects every day and don't stop to recognize the changes taking place around us. We want to change that.

We are looking at developing a community dashboard that will allow our members to visually see the growth and changes happening within M'Chigeeng. We want to share information, facts, and data with our community so that we can better understand where we are today, what we are working toward, and what progress we are making.

There is still much work to be done, but it is important that we also recognize the positive changes happening around us.

Community Engagement

Our Health and Wellness Centre completed community engagement on the Youth Centre throughout September.

Engagement sessions were held at Lakeview School, the High School, and the Community Complex on September 24th and 25th.

This is exactly the type of community involvement we want to see more of.

The Youth Centre is about creating opportunities and spaces for our young people, but it is important that we hear directly from our youth and community about what they need and what they would like to see.

The Health and Wellness Team will continue holding community engagement sessions on various initiatives. Please take the time to attend when these opportunities are offered.

We are inviting our community to participate in an upcoming Community Engagement Session on Exploring Child Wellbeing Law for M'Chigeeng First Nation.

This engagement session will provide an opportunity for community members to:

- Learn more about Child Wellbeing Law
- Share their thoughts and perspectives
- Ask questions
- Provide input as we explore the development of a Child Wellbeing Law for M'Chigeeng

Community Engagement on Exploring Child Wellbeing Law

October 22, 2027

M'Chigeeng Community Complex

5:00 p.m.

Light supper will be provided

This is your opportunity to have your voice heard.

Community input is an important part of this work. We encourage community members to attend, participate, ask questions, and share their perspectives.

The decisions and laws we develop today can have a lasting impact on our children, families, and future generations.

We look forward to hearing from our community.

This is your opportunity to have your voice heard.

Community input is an important part of this work, and I encourage our community members to attend, participate, and share their perspectives. The decisions and laws we develop today can have a lasting impact on our children, families, and future generations.

Community engagement is most meaningful when our community members participate and help shape what we are building together.

Community Safety & Wellness

September also brought some difficult days for M'Chigeeng.

We know that some of the events happening within our community have caused concern, stress, and uncertainty for many of our members. As leadership, we recognize the importance of taking these concerns seriously.

Our Administration team continues to work on safety provisions and is also reviewing and updating our Emergency Preparedness Plan to ensure that we are better prepared to respond to emergencies and changing circumstances within our community.

Community safety is a shared responsibility. It requires leadership, Administration, staff, our community members, and our external partners to work together.

We will continue to have these conversations and look for practical ways to strengthen our preparedness and support the safety and wellbeing of our community.

Just as importantly, we need to continue looking after one another.

If you, a family member, a friend, or someone you know is struggling, please reach out to our M'Chigeeng Mental Health Team. There is support available, and reaching out is an important first step.

Please take care of one another. Check in on your family, friends, neighbours, and community members, and do not hesitate to ask for help when you need it.

You are not alone. Our community is here to support one another.

Looking Ahead to October

There is a lot happening in October, and I encourage our community to stay connected and participate.

Community Moose Hunt

Our Community Moose Hunt begins October 2nd. This is an important community event that brings our people together and connects us with the land and our traditions.

We wish everyone participating a safe and successful hunt.

Chief and Council Meetings

Our upcoming Council meetings are scheduled for:

- **October 6th @ 6:00pm – Chief & Council Chambers**
- **October 15th – Strategic Planning Session, Day Two**
- **October 20th @ 6:00pm – Chief & Council Chambers**

Community Events

We are also excited to welcome the 3| Nolans Hockey Camp to M'Chigeeng from October 16th to October 21st, hosted by our Health and Wellness Department.

This is a great opportunity for our youth to participate in hockey, stay active, build relationships, and enjoy time together in our community. Creating positive opportunities for our youth is an important part of building a healthy and strong community.

I encourage our families and youth to take advantage of the opportunities being offered throughout the month.

Please join us on October 17th at 2:00 p.m. as we celebrate the Grand Re-Opening of the MFN Dock, Community Complex and Arena.

This will be an opportunity to come together, see the improvements that have been made, and recognize the hard work of the many people who have contributed to these projects.

I hope to see our community out to celebrate. Please see agenda of the event below.

Moving Forward Together

As I reflect on the past few months, I want to remind our community that positive change does not happen overnight. Sometimes we can become so focused on the challenges in front of us that we don't see the progress happening around us.

We have a great deal of work ahead of us, but we are also seeing positive changes throughout M'Chigeeng. We have new and improved facilities, investments in our community infrastructure, professional development for our staff, programs supporting our families and youth, and continued work toward strengthening our organization.

We are also creating opportunities for our community to have a voice in the decisions and initiatives that affect them.

None of this happens because of one person.

It takes our Council. It takes our Administration. It takes our Department Managers, Managers, Supervisors, and staff. It takes our community members. It takes our partners. And it takes time.

We have a great team.

As we continue this term, I want us to recognize the work that is happening and remain positive about what we can accomplish together.

Our responsibility is not only to address today's challenges, but to continue building a stronger M'Chigeeng for our children, our youth, our families, and the generations that will come after us.

We will continue to keep our community informed, create opportunities for engagement, invest in our people and community, and work together to move M'Chigeeng forward.

I look forward to seeing everyone throughout October.

Let us continue to look after one another, celebrate what makes M'Chigeeng strong, and work together toward the future we want for our community.

Miigwetch,



Gimaa Glen Hare
M'Chigeeng First Nation

Honouring the Revitalization of Our Community (Dock, Complex, Arena)

Agenda

Date: October 17th, 2026

Time: 2:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. — Please note that activities will take place at two locations.

Location: M'Chigeeng Dock & M'Chigeeng Community Complex & Arena

Time	Gathering Agenda
2:00 – 2:45 p.m.	M'Chigeeng Dock Unveiling and Ribbon-Cutting MFN Marina – 81 Bay Street
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.	M'Chigeeng Community Complex Community Tours <i>Guests are welcome to walk through the Community Complex and the new Health and Family Services office space.</i>
4:30 p.m.	Welcome, Smudge, and Drum Song <i>Elder</i>
5:00 p.m.	Welcoming Remarks <i>Gimaa Glen Hare</i>
5:10 p.m.	Welcoming Remarks <i>Enaagdenjged – Shannon Bebamash</i>
5:15 p.m.	Welcoming Remarks <i>CPPW Department Manager Ryan Corbiere and Director of Health and Wellness Floyd Ense</i>
5:30 p.m.	Keynote Guest <i>Ted Nolan</i>
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Community Dinner
7:00 p.m.	Evening Entertainment <i>Welcoming Aiyana Louis</i>



M'CHIGEENG FIRST NATION **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSION**

JURISDICTION OF CHILD WELFARE



THURSDAY
OCTOBER 22
5:00 PM



AT THE
**COMMUNITY
COMPLEX**



LIGHT DINNER
WILL BE AVAILABLE



SEEKING FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY MEMBERS

As MFN is looking at developing our own child well-being law.



AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE YOUR IDEAS

In children and family services.



HOW DOES THIS IMPACT OUR FIRST NATION CHILDREN AND FAMILIES?

What are the pros and cons of developing our own law?
A chance to ask questions and provide your input.