



NAN Youth Outstanding Service
Sandy Lake Patrol

NAN Elder Recognition Award
Delores McKay, Mattagami First Nation

NAN Woman Award
Vanessa Genier, Missinabie Cree First Nation

Emile Nakogee Award for Outstanding Leadership
Chief Russell Wesley, Cat Lake First Nation

NAN Youth Leadership/Community Involvement Award
Jamal Gagnon, Taykwa Tagamou Nation

NAN Youth Academic Award
Logan Metatawabin, Kashechewan First Nation

NAN Youth Community Involvement Award
North Caribou Lake Youth Council

NAN Staff Award
Stewart Kamenawatamin, Bearskin Lake First Nation

North Caribou Lake Youth Council

Caidence Quequish
Callie Jeremiah-Chikane
Charity Keeash
Elizabeth Rose Winters
Joanna Quequish
Kylie Fiddler

Lu Kakekayash
Melody Chikane
Timothy Chikane-Winter
Nano Kakekayash
Sundance Patayash
Shawn Roundhead

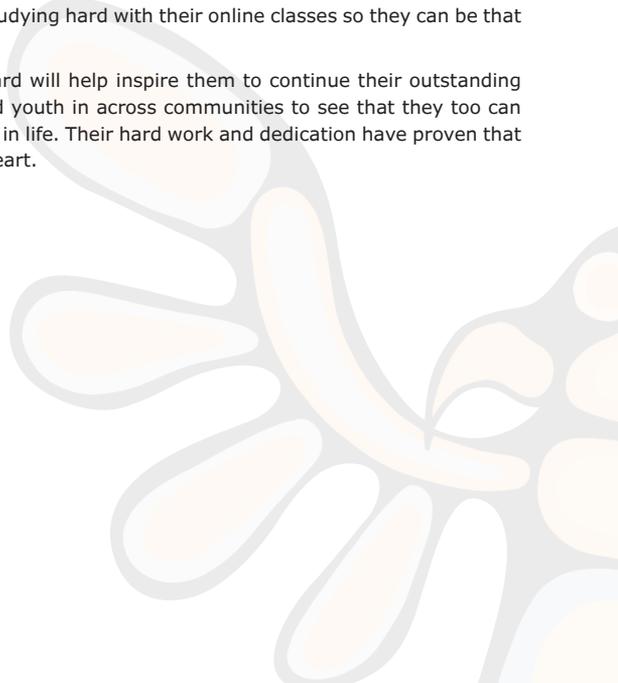


The North Caribou Lake Youth Council have been very active in their roles and have been very vocal in advocating for the children and youth to bring programming and activities to their peers. Their goal as a Youth Council is to bring healing in the areas of mental, emotional, physical and spiritual healing. They have gone beyond their call of duty to assist wherever needed by providing care and service to any youth without hesitation. They have also been very active in community service when requested by Chief and Council or from any local resource workers. The Youth Council have also been strongly encouraging their peers and fellow community members to take up any physical activity to deal with mental or emotional stress especially during the two-year Covid lockdown. They have also been encouraging the youth the importance of staying fit and active to fight against diabetes or any sickness. One of the Youth Council members takes time out of his busy schedule to teach cultural survival skills which he has been taught his entire life. The wisdom and knowledge that he shares with the youth have become very beneficial.

During North Caribou Lake's crisis, they jumped right in and assisted with cooking, caring for families and cleaning up homes. They know exactly what to do without being told and work without supervision.

They have been strongly encouraging children and youth to further their education. The Youth Council members have been studying hard with their online classes so they can be that reflection of being successful.

The Youth Council receiving this award will help inspire them to continue their outstanding work, but also allow the children and youth in across communities to see that they too can be successful in what they wish to do in life. Their hard work and dedication have proven that the work they do is done from the heart.





Delores McKay

Mattagami First Nation

Delores McKay's Spirit Name is "Shingwaukones", which means "Little Pine." She is proud to be Mukwa Dodem, Bear Clan, and is a member of Mattagami First Nation. She is a mother of five children, grandmother of 10 grandchildren, and has one great-grandson who entered the physical realm on December 2021.

As a teacher, speaker, leader, Elder, you can find Delores in the garden with her husband, as she is a "Keeper of the Ancient Traditional Vegetable Seeds" that are thousands of years old. She also conducts Full Moon Ceremonies, Water Ceremonies, Planting Ceremonies, and loves to sing with her hand drum.

Throughout the years, Delores has had the opportunity to experience and work at many locations on Turtle Island. She is also a member of the Three Fires Midewiwin Lodge.

Following her OSSD Diploma, she went on to receiving the following:

- Diploma in Business Administration and Management
- Diploma as a Healing and Wellness Counselor
- Diploma in Micro Business Applications
- Diploma in Desktop Publishing

Most recently, Delores has completed the "Feather Carriers" (Leadership for Life Program), a training that is rooted in Spirit.

Delores has more than 40 years of experience in management and administration and is one of the founding board members of the Aboriginal Financial Officers Association. She has also served on the boards of the Canadian Mental Health Association and the Enaahdig Healing Lodge, where she later worked as a facilitator for within the 21-day Trauma Program. She also was part of a Manager's Chief Committee that worked closely with the United Chiefs and Councils of Manitoulin.

Delores has served as Executive Director for several organizations including the Native Women's Association, Sheshegwaning First Nation, Manitoulin Island and her community of Mattagami. She has done finance and administration work for the City of Prince George, IAMGOLD Corporation, and served as executive assistant at the Misiway Milopemahtesewin Community Health Centre.

In Spring 2022, Delores took time from her job to serve as Elder-on-Site to assist evacuees in Timmins.

Delores is currently Executive Director of the Parry Sound Friendship Centre. She enjoys the opportunity to work with youth, adults, and Elders, and is working on the development of a new facility.

She looks forward to retirement but will continue to do good work helping and supporting wherever she is needed.

Vanessa Genier

Missanabie Cree First Nation



Vanessa Génier (Macumber), is a member of Missanabie Cree First Nation. Her Spirit Name is Summer Sky Woman, and she is Eagle Clan. Vaness was born in Leaf Rapids Manitoba, grew up in Red Lake Ontario, and has lived in Timmins for the past 16 years.

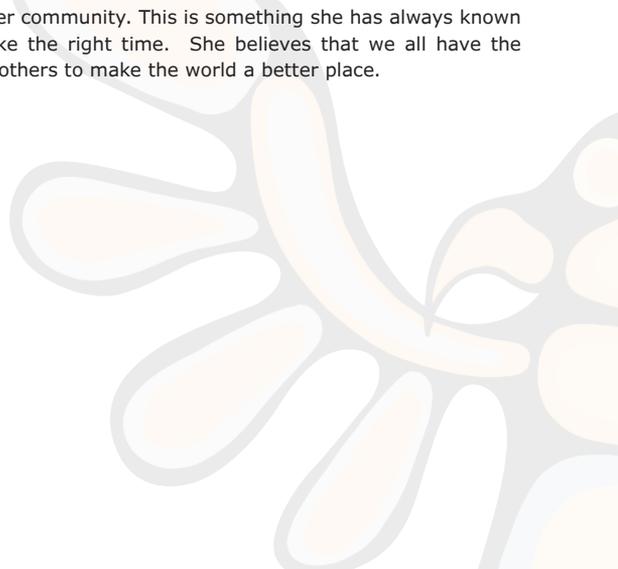
Vanessa has always enjoyed sharing the gifts given to her by the Creator. She has always been hard working, highly motivated and dedicated. At the age of seven she started her first business, painting rocks and selling them to neighbours. As a youth she delivered newspapers as well as sold Regal and Avon. Vanessa has volunteered at many community events, and even organized a few.

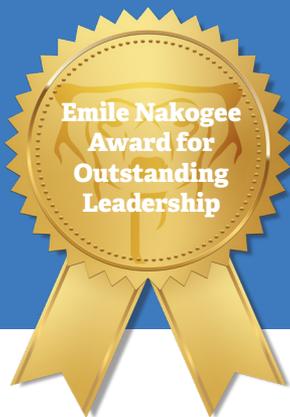
Family has always been important to Vanessa, and she always wanted to be a mother. The Creator blessed her with five amazing children, and she is honoured to raise them. Becoming a single mother was not something she had expected to happen, but it happened to her twice.

In 2011, Vanessa graduated from Northern College with a certificate in Business Administration and Human Resources. In March of 2021, she graduated from university with a Bachelor of Business Administration.

In June of 2022, Vanessa started a project that turned into the non-profit organization Quilts for Survivors. Through Quilts for Survivors she gets to share her love of quilting and her education in business with others. This organization presents Residential School Survivors with quilts to honour their journey. Over 1,800 quilts have been gifted to date. Vanessa loves to share her gift of quilting in such a beautiful, wonderful, blessing.

Vanessa is running for councilor of her community. This is something she has always known she needed to do, and now feels like the right time. She believes that we all have the responsibility to share our gifts with others to make the world a better place.





Chief Russell Wesley

Cat Lake First Nation

Russell Wesley is a member of Cat Lake First Nation, Treaty 9 Territory. He was recently elected Chief of Cat Lake for a second straight term and will hold that position until the spring of 2024. He was also Chief from 2013 to 2015.

During his terms as Chief, he has been focused on two main initiatives, mental health and addictions and natural resources.

Chief Russell has acknowledged that First Nation Peoples have been suffering from trauma of Residential Schools, 60's Scoop and impacts from colonization. First Nation communities have some of the highest levels of overdose and suicides in Ontario. As a result, Russell has spearheaded work in partnership with the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority, Kenora District Services Board, Windigo First Nations Council, Nishnawbe Aski Nation and Nishnawbe Aski Police Service to expand and continue the regional "hub and spoke" service model developed by the Sioux Lookout Friendship Accord Chiefs in 2021. This model provides for specialized and localized treatment within communities while maintaining increased access to skilled clinical staff resources. Through this approach, Chief Russell is hoping to create a roadmap that can be successfully replicated by other First Nation communities across the country.

Throughout his entire career of over 40 years in senior management roles, Chief Wesley has been an active contributor to the development of intergovernmental and government policies at the federal and provincial levels including Indigenous Services Canada, First Nation and Indigenous Health Canada, the Ontario Ministries of Aboriginal Affairs and Natural Resources and Forestry and Northern Development.

During his leadership as Chief he has been instrumental in the development of the Sioux Lookout Friendship Accord forging positive partnerships with neighbouring First Nations and the Municipality of Sioux Lookout.

In 2017, he lead and authored the first ever Shared Territory Protocol providing the guiding principles for resource development in the territories shared by Cat Lake First Nation, Slate Falls First Nation and Lac Seul First Nation.

Chief Wesley continues to focus on the preserving of traditional land and resources while practicing his strong belief in the laws and traditions taught to him by many Elders he has known over the years.

Jamal Gagnon

Taykwa Tagamou Nation



Jamal Gagnon is a Youth Councillor with Taykwa Tagamou Nation. His accomplishments so far have exceeded the expectations of his role for the community.

Jamal worked tirelessly to launch a Youth Council in his community, and was able to raise \$70,000 for a budget. He hopes this platform will provide youth in his community with a voice, input on community matters, and inspire more youth participation. He can always be seen working multiple jobs to assist his hardworking mother, who is a Sixties Scoop Survivor.

Jamal is a confident public speaker who has earned a great deal of respect. He is well known in the Cochrane area, where he is regularly met with the friendly greeting "Hi Jamal" by most people he sees.

It is always interesting to listen to his ideas on the importance of gratitude and giving back to the community. Those who know him well are confident that there is a future full of magic, kindness and prosperity for this young man.

Like all Keewaywin award winners, his of recognition is well-deserved and will continue to motivate him throughout his current endeavours and future goals.





Logan Metatawabin

Kashechewan First Nation

Logan Metatawabin recently graduated from Kapuskasing District High school with four bursaries and will be attending Cambrian College in their two-year Power Engineering Technician program this fall.

He is a member of Kashechewan First Nation. He moved to Kapuskasing two years ago to better his education. It was definitely a great decision for him as he has benefited from the trade courses the high school offers, which lead him to the direction to energy and production. He has evolved to be a confident, dynamic student who is eager to explore and excel in technological education.

Logan is a bright student, supportive to his peers, utilizes student groups, works well in the community. He has chosen a great education path and will continue to excel.

His goals are to work as a stationary engineer in Nuclear Energy. Logan will make a great role model for all Indigenous students. Trades is a vastly growing industry and he will inspire others to follow in his education path.



Sandy Lake Patrol Goup

Grace Goodman

Simeon Kakepetum

Lenny Anishninabie

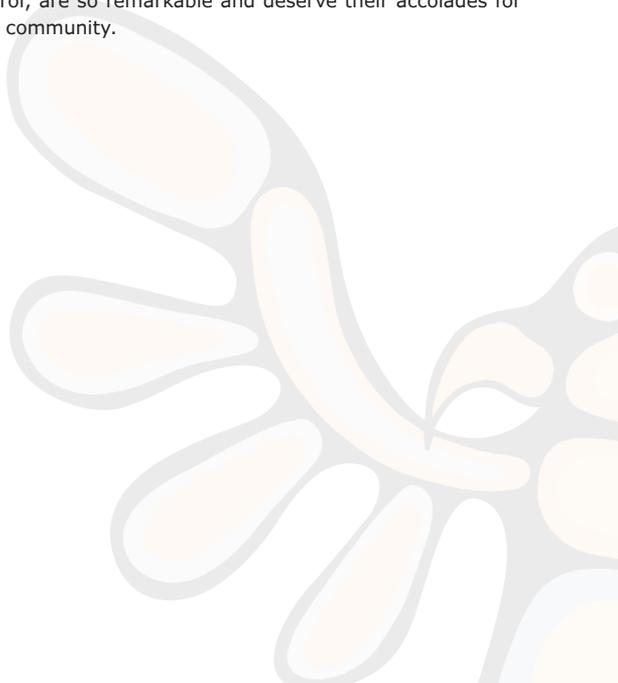


July 14, 2022, a guest speaker named Jeff Meekis spoke of a program in Sandy Lake called Paw Patrol. He shared a story about a group of young people who were incorporated into the community safety plan by way of street patrol in the 7 different areas of Sandy Lake. This proactive protective factor paid off when the three young people listed above went above and beyond to save a life.

Firstly, the fact these young people stood up and tall to be safety leaders in their community is awe-inspiring as there have been so many tragic events that had taken place in Sandy Lake this past year affecting the entire community. This kind of protective action is definitely a beautiful way that youth are involved in ensuring their community is a safe place for all members. This is also serves as a form of mentorship to younger youth when they see the positive impacts these young people make.

Secondly, the young person at risk had reached out to these youth which show a certain degree of trust and comfort in knowing who to turn to when they are in the depths of harmful thoughts and behaviours. The speed and tenacity, as explained by Jeff Meekis, that these young people in acting so quickly to get to the young person at risk shows their strength, dedication, and commitment to their community and its members.

These youth, and the entire Paw Patrol, are so remarkable and deserve their accolades for being such dedicated leaders in their community.





Stewart Kamenawatamin

Bearskin Lake First Nation

Stewart is a kind, compassionate and diligent worker. He always puts the people of NAN front and center in his life, whether it be through work or his personal life. He is a natural born caregiver who is always willing to take the reigns and steer in any direction he is given. He was quick to throw in his hat to assist in the First Nation immunization project and works very hard to support his people. We are all his people in his mind, and he would do anything to help anyone.

Those who have had the opportunity to work with Stewart quite closely in different calibers over the years are filled with so much admiration in the way he cares for others. He is dedicated family man with a beautiful family, but the thing with Stewart is that everyone is his family, and that is how he treats people.

Stewart embodies kindness and love like it is his livelihood. He always has a smile and kind word to lend to others and he lives the Seven Grandfather Teachings in his everyday life and work. People have learned so much from him and he is definitely one of the most humble people you will meet. He puts his whole heart into everything he does, even when his heart is broken.

He is valiant, dependable, and empathetic, which is everything you can ask for, or need, in a friend and colleague.





Mattagami First Nation



Mattagami First Nation is situated on ancient Native land that has long been home to the Ojibway and Ojicree people from the Mattagami River and Mattagami Lake areas, and as far as the Moose River headwaters on the James Bay coast.

The original community was located in a small area on the shore of Mattagami Lake. According to Elder Andrew Luke, several members of the community built log cabins to shelter their families. The community was moved in the early 1950s to gain better access to the developing road system. New homes were constructed on this new site.

Later developments from Treaty No.9 for Mattagam took place in the 1970s when Norman Naveau took an active role in representing his people. Naveau was appointed by several Chiefs from nearby First Nations to become vice-president of what was then known as the Wabun area of Treaty No.9, which represented several First Nations in the eastern part of the province and south of the James Bay coast. The Wabun area of Treaty No.9 was one of several areas of representation for different First Nations known as Project Development Areas (PDAs), now known as Tribal Councils. Elder Naveau represented this area for five years.

Mattagami First Nation has progressed greatly over the years. A new state-of-the-art Community Complex was opened to house administration offices and other services in 1996.

