

Register on [www.nadf.org](http://www.nadf.org) to receive our newsletters and information on upcoming events.



NISHNAWBE ASKI  
DEVELOPMENT FUND

KEWADIN AHNUNG  
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NORTH STAR



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Boozhoo! Tansi Aannii! Wahchay! Welcome to the Spring Edition of Kewadin Ahnung. It's been a long, cold winter and I'm sure you are just a thrilled as I am to see the first signs of spring. With the change in seasons, we at NADF are ramping up for a busy summer, planning activities and travel over the next few months. Watch for notices in your local newspaper, radio stations and bulletin boards.

In this issue, you will find program updates and highlights since our last newsletter but I would like to mention a few areas:

### NADF Welcomes New Board Member

On March 17, 2014, NADF welcomed Travis Boissonneau as its newest Board Member. Travis is a member of Garden River First Nation and resides with his family in Thunder Bay. A Certified Management Accountant (CMA) and a graduate of Ryerson University, Travis majored in Accounting and minored in Finance, and is currently the Vice President of Northern First Nations Health Centre Ltd. When the time comes for Travis to serve as a Director, his education and expertise will be a welcome addition. On behalf of the Board I would like to thank all those that applied for membership and encourage you to keep in touch as other opportunities may arise in the future.

### Loan Activity

I had previously reported that NADF had disbursed over \$1.4M in loans at September 30, 2013. I am extremely pleased to report that at March 31, 2014, NADF disbursed an additional \$882,000 in loans for a total of \$2,282,000, achieving our target of \$2.2M. Kudos to NADF staff for a job well done!

### Program Renewal

Effective April 1, 2014, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) extended an agreement with NADF to administer the Aboriginal Business Contribution Program (ABCP), formerly Aboriginal Business Canada (ABC), for one additional year. As many of you may be aware, NADF has been delivering the programs and services of ABC for over 20 years and last year was the first year that NADF administered and delivered the program. It was a learning process and we would like to thank our ABCP partners, Rainy Lake Tribal Business and Financial Services Corporation and Wakenagun Community Futures Development Corporation, for assisting in the delivery of the program to their respective regions. Together we committed approximately \$1,157,484.00 in ABCP funds to assist Aboriginal business and economic development in northern Ontario. Regrettably, due cuts in the funding agreement, we will not be able to continue these relationships this year however NADF will continue to deliver the ABCP program to these regions.

In closing, I wish you health and happiness.

*Brian Davey*  
Executive Director

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## COMING TOGETHER... INSPIRING GENERATIONS

*Colleen Martin*  
*Senior Project Manager*

We have been busy over the past 6 months to get our project staffed and operational. It was a pleasure to introduce ourselves to Aroland, Eabametoong, Nibinamik, and Webequie; we look forward to a team visit with Constance Lake, Ginoogaming, Long Lake #58, Marten Falls, and Neskantaga.

A few examples of activities under each of the pillars are listed below. The Business Information Officer project is described in detail in the Nishnawbe Maajijikaywin monthly newsletter available on-line at [www.nadf.org](http://www.nadf.org).

### Business Development

Workshops  
Private business counseling  
Idea Generation  
Financing  
Business Planning Assistance

### FN Capacity

Business Information Officers  
Video-Conference Training  
Business Association(s)  
Opportunity sharing  
Mentoring

### Community Planning

Community Visioning  
Develop Planning Champions  
Prioritizing Projects  
Needs/Gap assessment  
Proposal Writing

### Youth Entrepreneurship

Summer Camp  
After School  
Virtual Career Fair  
Innovation Award  
Business IDEas

**COMMON TO ALL: MENTORING, KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER, GUIDANCE/SUPPORT**



AVAILABLE ONLINE  
OR BY REQUESTING  
A HARD COPY BY CALLING  
**1-800-465-6821**



### Team Members

- Colleen Martin, Senior Project Manager
- Tracey Willoughby, BIO Coordinator
- Anna Deminski, Due Diligence Analyst
- Denise Hardy, Special Initiatives Advisor
- Wendy McKay, Youth Coordinator
- Stephan Kudaka, Community Planner
- Harry Kenequanash, Community Planner
- Leslie O’Nabigon, Business Development Officer
- Isha Azandosessi, Business Development Officer
- Darcy Kejick, Business Development Officer
- John Gagnon, Youth Coordinator
- Lucy Percy, Admin Assistant

## NADF RADIO SHOW

Our bi-weekly radio show airs on Monday’s at 2pm ET (1pm CT) on the Wawatay Radio Network and on Channel 962 for Bell Express Vu subscribers across the north.

You can listen to interviews with guest speakers involved in Aboriginal business and economic development, join in discussions on various topics, get details on upcoming events, and information on NADF’s products and services. Send us feedback on our show and your name will be entered into a monthly draw to win a prize.

Contact us at 1-800-465-6821 or email [radio@nadf.org](mailto:radio@nadf.org) with your suggestions for future show topics and guests.

Don’t forget to tune in! Meegwetch!

Visit [www.nadf.org](http://www.nadf.org) for schedule.

# \$HOONIAH



## WHERE INTEREST & ABILITY INTERSECT

*Mari Bishop  
Finance Manager*

‘What do you want to be when you grow up?’ has evolved into ‘What do you want to be in your next career?’. Where our parents and grandparents may have held one job for the majority of their working lives, new workers may have several careers over their working lives. Data on career changes is scarce, and studies which suggest seven career changes in a lifetime may be skewed, but anecdotal evidence does seem to indicate that one or more career changes is now the norm. Regardless, whether you have one career or seven, you are likely going to spend a good part of your life working. So - how do you ensure you choose your career wisely?

Take the time to identify what elements are essential to you for job satisfaction. Explore alternatives you may be interested in, and develop skills in those areas. Know yourself. For example, certain traits are an

asset in the accounting profession: organized and focused, and detail-oriented with the capacity to see the big picture. Personal integrity is also essential. Ideally your individual traits, skills and personal characteristics will combine with your interests to find the perfect occupation – including the option of entrepreneurship - for you.

Strength is where interest and ability intersect. My university degree is in Social Work, and I worked in that field for several years. I enjoyed the work, but it didn’t challenge me in the way I like to be challenged. I went back to school, completed a college diploma in Accounting, obtained a Chartered Accountant’s designation, and have now worked in Accounting for many years. I love the work that I do. On a slow day my work can lean towards being repetitive and dry. However, slow days are rare. My work is generally fast-paced, interesting, varied, complex, and challenging. I don’t think I would have enjoyed being an accountant nearly as much in the pre-computer days. Technology has done wonders for information processing. It’s what comes out of all that input that provides the opportunity for meaningful recommendations and action. Accountants today are trusted business advisors much more than stereotypical number crunchers. For me that’s the ‘sweet spot’, where interest and ability intersect.



## NADF COMMUNITY-BASED FACILITATION TRAINING

*Tracey Willoughby  
Business Information Officer  
(BIO) Project Coordinator*

On March 24 to 27, 2014 Business Information Officers (BIO), Economic Develop Officers (EDO) and the Nishnawbe Maajijikaywin team participated in Community-Based Facilitation Training hosted by NADF’s Nishnawbe Maajijikaywin at the Victoria Inn in Thunder Bay and facilitated by Esther Van Gennip of Van Gennip Mediation & Facilitation Services.

The 3-day session brought together participants from Eabametoong, Nibinamik, Constance Lake and Aroland to engage, share, and network, while gaining presentation skills, building confidence and developing leadership skills.

The purpose of the training was to provide participants with facilitation skills to engage community members in a constructive manner, learning through practical exercises, group sessions and brain storming how to frame questions in a positive manner and to be more intuitive to their audiences.

Participants were introduced to the role of the facilitator and the importance of facilitation. The training provided participants with tools, techniques and strategies to provide structure to group discussions; facilitate decision-making; overcome barriers to consensus; and encourage positive group behaviors.

The training provided participants with an opportunity to engage in a variety of hands-on and group exercises to practice firsthand the tools and techniques learned while receiving constructive feedback and support from workshop participants. Participants not only learned the importance of facilitation, they also learned that process is the key to providing structure for group discussions and the skills and techniques learned provide participants with the tools to run effective and productive meetings.

“Wonderful to witness the strength, facilitation skills and encouragement shared amongst participants.”

Esther Van Gennip, Van Gennip Mediation & Facilitation Services.

“Very good. Very relevant for our communities.”

Mark Bell, Economic Development Officer Aroland First Nation



COMING  
SOON...

# 24<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL

NISHNAWBE ASKI  
DEVELOPMENT FUND

BUSINESS  
AWARDS

## Nominations Are Open!

Submit your nominations **TODAY** for the following categories:

- Businessman of the Year
- Businesswoman of the Year
- Executive of the Year
- Youth Entrepreneur of the Year
- Partnership of the Year
- Corporation of the Year
- Building Communities
- New Business of the Year

\* *Self nominations are also welcome.*

Sponsorship opportunities available **NOW!**

Contact **Brittany Millard**

at 1-800-465-6821 or [bmillard@nadf.org](mailto:bmillard@nadf.org).  
For more details, please visit [www.nadf.org](http://www.nadf.org).



### INTRODUCTION

**Sandra Williams**  
Business Support Officer (CF)

HELLO MY NAME IS

*Sandra*

Hello everyone! My name is Sandra Williams and I am new to Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund (NADF). I started as the NADF's Business Support Officer on January 13, 2014 and have worked in Aboriginal organizations for the past 29 years. So I bring a lot of work experience with me.

As with everything else in life, change is sometimes a little scary, so I am both excited and nervous in my new position. I have always wanted to combine business with travel and this new position allows me to do both. In my new role, I am responsible for providing my services to the thirty-three (33) Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC) communities. My primary role is to provide business support and deliver business related workshops in those communities. So far, it has been a very busy few months as I have been familiarizing myself with everything. During this time I have attended training and participated in team meetings, and all staff at NADF has been extremely helpful and supportive.

Since beginning in this position, I have had the pleasure of travelling to Webequie, Bearskin Lake, Keewaywin and Whitesand. I have enjoyed my visits to these communities and the people have been very nice and accommodating. My upcoming scheduled visits are Marten Falls, North Caribou Lake, Deer Lake and Slate Falls and that's taking my travel schedule into the first week of June.

I look forward to eventually visiting all of my 33 CFDC Communities in the coming months. However, if you require my services before then, please call me at 1-800-465-6821 or email [swilliams@nadf.org](mailto:swilliams@nadf.org).

Meegwetch!

Visit [www.nadf.org](http://www.nadf.org) for a complete list of the 33 CFDC Communities.



## NADF 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL FUNSPIEL

*Brittany Millard  
Marketing & Communications  
Assistant Intern*

On April 9th, 2014, NADF's staff participated in a team building activity that was held at the Fort William Curling Club (FWCC) in Thunder Bay, ON. NADF's Special Initiative Advisor, Denise Hardy, who is also the Youth Program Coordinator at the FWCC, instructed staff on the basic techniques and tips involved in curling.

Curling is a social sport that includes teamwork, involves communication and great exercise. NADF staff got to experience a different way of communication and teamwork through this activity with a couple 2-end team building games.

This will become an annual team building event for NADF and we will be approaching other organizations to join us next year. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Brittany Millard, Marketing & Communications Intern at (807) 623-5397 or bmillard@nadf.org.



## **MINING READY** SUMMIT

Preparing Aboriginal Communities  
for Mining-Related Business Opportunities

Do not miss out on this definitive provincial mining and business summit and tradeshow event!

### **Reserve your spot and register today!**

**Sponsorship opportunities also available.**

- Gain access to leaders in the mining industry.
- Raise brand awareness with contractors, suppliers, mining professionals, government and First Nation communities.
- Promote your products and services through presentations.

For more information visit [www.miningready.com](http://www.miningready.com).  
To purchase tickets, please contact **Liesa Wynn** at 807-623-3941 or [lwynn@nadf.org](mailto:lwynn@nadf.org).

**Valhalla Inn, Thunder Bay, ON  
October 28th - 29th, 2014**

**Early Bird Registration: \$300**  
[register by Friday, September 26, 2014]

**Regular Registration: \$350**  
[after Friday, September 26, 2014]

**Tradeshow Exhibitor Registration: \$1,000**  
[limited space available]

**Mining Ready Summit Dinner  
with Keynote Speaker [TBA]: \$100**

\*HST included in all pricing\*



## THE GRAND PLAN: KNOWING YOUR BUSINESS

**Cory Robin**  
*Business Development Officer (ABCP)*

So you've been thinking about a business for years? You've spoken to your closest friends for advice. You've checked out the competition and you've picked out a place and suddenly, the time is right. Now what?

You make a plan.

A business plan is simply a document that tells people like bankers or investors what you want to do and how you're going to do it. The 'what' is pretty easy but the 'how' may take some professional advice, and that where Aboriginal Business Contribution Program (ABCP) comes in. ABCP may cover up to 75% of the cost of hiring a professional business consultant to finish and polish your business plan. But even though you've hired a pro, you are not off the hook. A business consultant doesn't know what you want to do and it's your job to lay out your whole idea.

Start with your idea. Expand on it. Add your hopes and dreams, future plans and let your passion show through. Much like this article, which started as an idea that was reread and rewritten, clarified, researched and polished. Your plan starts the same way. It starts, it's reread, rewritten, changed, updated, researched, rethought and polished. It is missing something? Add it in. Something not making sense? Rework it.

Then put the 'You' in your plan. Ask yourself a few questions such as 'What is my role?' 'What will I be doing?' 'Do I need special training?' 'Why am I doing this?' These simple questions start to flesh out your idea and give it life.

The next step is to tell the story of 'How'. This is where you sell your business idea. Tell the reader about the steps you'll do to produce that widget or sell that cog, or perform that service. You've probably been thinking of this part for years. Now is the time to put it down on paper.

Unlike your English professor, your business consultant won't demand a thousand-word essay. Your business plan could range from 1 to 100 or more pages. Your business consultant will take all your hard work and add in the market research, the financial statements, industry information, and other bits of information that the average person normally doesn't think of, after all, we aren't all accountants.

A business plan isn't as complicated as you think. It's Your Business and Your Idea and no one knows it better than you do. NADF's mission is 'Supporting Aboriginal Success' and the start of your success is a phone call away!

## REGISTER NOW!

### Registration

(HST included): Individuals: \$175

Team of 4 (save \$100): \$600

### Registration includes:

Green fees, golf cart and dinner.

### Location:

Fort William Country Club  
1350 Mountain Road

**The tournament is a fundraiser for the NADF sponsorship fund.**

**Proceeds support Nishnawbe Aski Nation youth, students, community events and provides financial assistance to communities in crisis.**

Visit [www.nadf.org](http://www.nadf.org) for more details.

To register, contact **Liesa Wynn** at 807-623-3941.

For sponsorship opportunities, contact **Dawn Willoughby** at 1-800-465-6821.

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND HAVE FUN WHILE DOING IT?  
**18 HOLES (SHOTGUN START - BEST BALL)**



## NISHNAWBE KIDS BUSINESS PROGRAM

*Wendy McKay  
Youth Project Coordinator*

NADF, in partnership with North Claybelt CFDC, held a successful and fun two-day train-the-trainer program on February 24th and February 25th at the Landmark Inn in Thunder Bay. The training program is part of the Northern Ontario Youth Entrepreneurship Initiative aimed at creating entrepreneurship awareness for Youth. Thirteen (13) volunteers and fourteen (14) youth from eight (8) First Nation communities participated in the 2-day training program. These communities include Eabametoong, Webequie, Aroland, Long Lake 58, Ginoogaming, Martin Fall and Nibinamik. The volunteers that came to this training brought their elementary school aged children with them. The children participated in the delivery of these programs from other trainers in a different meeting room while the volunteers were trained in another room. The training program offered train-the-trainer activities to community volunteers to allow them to deliver youth entrepreneurship programs. The programs the volunteers were trained in were:

### Create a Logo

This program encourages Grades 3-6 students to participate in a competition by identifying and naming a business opportunity that they think could work in their community. The students describe what their

business is about and they are required to design a logo that reflects their business and to briefly explain the meaning of their logo.

### Market Your Thoughts

This program challenges Grade 7 and 8 students to participate in the Market Your Thoughts Multimedia Business Plan Competition. The program encourages students to creatively think about enterprising ventures and to pursue entrepreneurial thinking and action. It also allows for students to win money and prizes. Market Your Thoughts allows us to recognize, reward and support the talent and initiative of our enterprising young people.

### Kids Invent Toys

This is an afterschool program or a day camp that lets children create some wild, new toy inventions. It has children aged 9-12 make mock up toys, create new toys, and advertise their toys. Kids have the freedom to be creative and work with their hands. The children have a lot of fun learning about inventing and learning about entrepreneurship.

NADF will be delivering these youth programs not just to the communities that participated but to all interested First Nation communities in the NAN territory. For more information, please contact Wendy McKay, Youth Project Coordinator or John Gagnon, Assistant Youth Coordinator at our office.



## Board of Directors

- Arlene Meekis, Chairperson  
Shibogama Tribal Council
- Shawn Batise, Vice Chairperson  
Wabun Tribal Council
- Aaron Kakepetum, Secretary &  
Treasurer, Keewaytinook-Okimakanak
- Adam Fiddler  
Independent First Nations
- Derek Fox  
Windigo First Nations
- Frank MacDiarmid  
At-Large
- Gary Beardy  
IFNA
- Jason Rasevych  
Matawa First Nations
- Albalina Metatawabin  
Mushkegowuk Council

## Members

- Russell Wesley  
Cat Lake First Nation
- Lillian Suganaqueb  
Webequie First Nation
- Travis Boissoneau  
Garden River First Nation

## Ex-Officio

- Giuseppe Buoncore  
FedNor
- DGC Les Louttit  
Nishnawbe Aski Nation
- Heather Garlow-Saul  
INAC/ABC

### MISSION

“To advance the well-being of Aboriginal people in northern Ontario through business and economic development.”

# SUPPORTING ABORIGINAL SUCCESS

### VISION

“Aboriginal Prosperity”

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014**  
**Aboriginal Forum 2014**  
**Northern Mines Expo**

**McIntyre Community  
Centre Expo Ballroom**  
Timmins, ON

To register, contact **Liesa Wynn**  
at 807-623-3941 or  
[lwynn@nadf.org](mailto:lwynn@nadf.org) or visit  
[www.miningready.com](http://www.miningready.com).

**August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Annual Fairways for the  
Future Charity Golf Classic**

**Fort William Country Club**  
**1350 Mountain Road**  
Thunder Bay, ON

To register, contact **Liesa Wynn**  
at 807-623-3941 or  
[lwynn@nadf.org](mailto:lwynn@nadf.org) or visit  
[www.miningready.com](http://www.miningready.com).

For sponsorship opportunities,  
contact **Dawn Willoughby**  
at 1-800-465-6821.

**October 28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Mining Ready Summit**

**Valhalla Inn**  
**1 Valhalla Inn Rd,**  
Thunder Bay, ON

To register, contact **Liesa Wynn**  
at 807-623-3941 or  
[lwynn@nadf.org](mailto:lwynn@nadf.org) or visit  
[www.miningready.com](http://www.miningready.com).

**October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014**  
**24<sup>th</sup> Annual NADF  
Business Awards**

**Valhalla Inn**  
**1 Valhalla Inn Rd,**  
Thunder Bay, ON

**Brittany Millard** at  
1-800-465-6821 or  
[bmillard@nadf.org](mailto:bmillard@nadf.org) or  
for more details, visit  
[www.nadf.org](http://www.nadf.org).

## CONTACT US

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Fax: (807) 623-3746

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106 Centennial Square, 2nd Floor  
Thunder Bay, ON  
P7E 1H3

Ph: (807) 623-5397  
Fax: (807) 622-8271  
Toll Free: 1-800-465-6821

### Timmins Office \*NEW LOCATION\*

273 Third Avenue, Suite 203  
Timmins, ON  
P4N 1E2

Tel: (705) 268-3940  
Fax: (705) 268-4034  
Toll Free: 1-800-465-6821