



The Alliance

INDEPENDENT FIRST NATIONS ALLIANCE | MAY 2026

- Muskrat Dam First Nation Connected to Ontario Hydro Grid
- Communities Come Together for Sacred Beginnings Gathering
- Celebrating Student Success Across IFNA Communities
- Supporting the Next Generation of Community-Based Care

MUSKRAT DAM FIRST NATION CONNECTED TO ONTARIO HYDRO GRID



TECHNICAL SERVICES

Muskrat Dam First Nation has officially been connected to the Ontario hydro grid through the Wataynikaneyap Transmission Project, marking a significant milestone for the community and the region.

As the last of 17 remote communities connected through the project, Muskrat Dam now has access to reliable electricity and is no longer dependent on costly fuel deliveries and diesel-generated power. Throughout the project, IFNA worked closely with the Community to advance key milestones and ensure a successful grid connection.

This milestone highlights years of collaboration and planning to improve energy access and infrastructure in remote northern communities.



SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF



WHITESAND



LAC SEUL



KITCHENUHMAYKOOSIB
INNINUWUG



MUSKRAT DAM



PIKANGIKUM

CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS ACROSS IFNA COMMUNITIES



EDUCATION SERVICES

As the school year begins to wrap up, students across IFNA communities are reaching exciting milestones and preparing for graduation celebrations.

Dennis Franklin Cromarty (DFC) and Pelican Falls are finishing up this week, while Sioux North Secondary School continues for another six weeks. Sioux North recently completed midterms, with 11 students achieving Honour Roll status by earning averages of 80% or higher.

Graduation season is also underway, with two graduations taking place next week — including two graduates from Muskrat Dam First Nation at DFC and one graduate from Muskrat Dam First Nation at Pelican Falls.

Sioux North's graduation will take place on June 25, where 10 students will graduate, including three students from Muskrat Dam First Nation and seven from Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug.

To celebrate their hard work and achievements, Sioux North staff and students will also be travelling to Calgary for their graduation trip in the coming weeks. Congratulations to all students, graduates, staff, and families as they celebrate another successful school year.



SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF COMMUNITY-BASED CARE

HEALTH SERVICE

One of the more uplifting developments over the past month has been the progress on bringing University of Limerick medical students to IFNA for clinical electives for the second year.

Following interviews held earlier this year with six candidates from Ireland, the team has been actively coordinating placements. Beyond the immediate logistics, this is a meaningful win for IFNA's long-term workforce strategy. Recruiting and retaining clinicians willing to work in remote

First Nations communities is one of the most persistent challenges in northern health care, and early exposure during medical training is one of the strongest predictors of where a physician will eventually choose to practice.

By giving these students firsthand experience of community-based care in KI, Muskrat Dam, Lac Seul, and Pikangikum, you're planting the seeds for a future pipeline of physicians who understand the realities, relationships, and cultural context of the IFNA member communities. and who may return as locums, residents, or full-time providers.

It also raises IFNA's profile internationally as a destination for high-quality, mission-driven elective training, which strengthens future recruiting conversations and builds lasting partnerships with institutions like the University of Limerick School of Medicine.



**UNIVERSITY OF
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INDEPENDENT FIRST NATIONS ALLIANCE

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