



The Alliance

INDEPENDENT FIRST NATIONS ALLIANCE | FEBRUARY 2026

- Youth Winter Camp Focused on Wellness and Connection
- 20 Fully Serviced Lots Developed for New Homes in Muskrat Dam First Nation
- IFNA Regional Fire Response Supports Youth Winter Camp in Sioux Lookout.
- Supporting Community Health Through Flu Vaccination Clinics
- Service Ontario ID Clinics Update

YOUTH WINTER CAMP FOCUSED ON WELLNESS AND CONNECTION



HEALTH SERVICES

From January 12–17, IFNA Mental Health, in partnership with SLFNHA, hosted a Youth Winter Wellness Camp at the SLFNHA Camp in Lac Seul. The camp brought together 15 youth from KI for a week focused on wellness, connection, and time on the land.

Through a mix of land-based activities, group sessions, and opportunities for reflection and sharing, the camp was designed to support youth mental wellness, build positive relationships, and provide a safe, supportive space for learning and healing. Guided by strong community support and care, this gathering offered youth a chance to step away from everyday pressures and focus on their well-being, connection, and strength as young people.



SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF



WHITESAND



LAC SEUL



KITCHENUHMAYKOOSIB
INNINUWUG



MUSKRAT DAM



PIKANGIKUM

20 FULLY SERVICED LOTS DEVELOPED FOR NEW HOMES IN MUSKRAT DAM FIRST NATION



TECHNICAL SERVICES

One of the biggest challenges facing our remote communities is the lack of safe and affordable housing. In 2024, Muskrat Dam First Nation and IFNA identified the need for more homes. The first step was to prepare serviced lots where new houses could eventually be built.

Initial funding for this work was secured through the CMHC Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF). As part of this funding, several key activities were completed to make sure the project would benefit the community.

These activities included community meetings and learning sessions to build shared understanding and support, training on different types of affordable housing, and workshops on basic home maintenance. Detailed designs for the subdivision were completed with community input, and the groundwork for developing the lots was planned and prepared.

By December 2025, all required HAF activities were successfully completed, and final reports are now being prepared and submitted.

Additional funding was also secured through the ISC Housing Gaps Fund and the ISC Housing Management Subsidy.

Through this project, 20 fully serviced lots were developed with access to water, wastewater, hydro, and roads.

These lots are intended for “missing middle” housing, such as small multi-unit homes that can support families, individuals, and Elders. While homes will be built in future phases, this work is an important first step in making new housing possible.

Beyond creating space for future homes, the project also helped strengthen local housing capacity by supporting a new housing position. Training and workshops provided community members with practical skills and knowledge to better care for their homes, helping support long-term housing stability in the community.



IFNA REGIONAL FIRE RESCUE SUPPORTS YOUTH WINTER CAMP IN SIOUX LOOKOUT



INTEGRATED EMERGENCY SERVICE

IFNA IES Regional Fire Rescue (RFR) was invited by IFNA Mental Health and SLFNHA to support a youth camp held at SLFNHA camp in Sioux Lookout. The camp brought 15 youth from Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig together for a week focused on mental wellness, connection, and time on the land.

During the ice fishing day, IFNA Regional Fire Rescue provided on-site communications support and EMR-level medical coverage to ensure participant safety. The team also supported on-ice transportation using snowmobiles, side-by-sides, and the Snow-Balance to ensure safe movement throughout the day's activities.

In addition to operational support, RFR staff led learning sessions with the youth, covering basic winter survival skills, first aid, shelter building, and fishing tips. The team also hosted a Q&A with participants, sharing knowledge about firefighting, fire prevention, and wildfire awareness.

Regional Fire Response staff in attendance included Terrance Angecone, Hunter Angecone, and Cody Buswa, whose presence and engagement helped create a safe and informative experience for all involved.



SUPPORTING COMMUNITY HEALTH THROUGH FLU VACCINATION CLINICS



INTEGRATED EMERGENCY SERVICE

Between December 10 and 15, the IFNA Community Paramedicine Program worked alongside the Pikangikum Health Authority (PHA) to host several influenza vaccine clinics in the community.

Clinics were held at the Northern Store, the school, and other locations including the Elders Complex, Community Hub, OPP detachment, and Peacekeepers. Community Paramedics also did home visits for Elders, home care clients, and people who had trouble getting to a clinic, helping make sure everyone had a chance to get vaccinated.

Through these clinics, 98 community members received their flu shot. The IFNA Community Paramedicine Program continues to work closely with the Pikangikum Health Authority to support seasonal vaccines and routine childhood immunizations, helping keep the community healthy and prevent illness from spreading.

SERVICE ONTARIO ID CLINICS UPDATE



HEALTH SERVICES

Sierra Hartnett and Mackenzie Stuart completed extensive training and preparation over the past two years to support the launch of Service Ontario ID Clinics. These clinics help community members access important identification services, including health registration, driver services, Ontario photo cards, and accessible parking permits.

An ID clinic was held in Lac Seul on November 12–13, where 30 community members were supported in obtaining identification. Another clinic took place in KI from November 24–27, assisting 126 community members.

Most recently, an ID clinic was held in Pikangikum from January 20–22, where 348 community members were served. Dates for clinics in Muskrat Dam and Whitesand will be shared once confirmed.



INDEPENDENT FIRST NATIONS ALLIANCE

COMMS@IFNA.CA | IFNA.CA

THUNDER BAY OFFICE

1151 Barton Street, Suite 203
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 5N3
Tel: (807) 626-9698
Fax: (807) 626-9638

SIOUX LOOKOUT OFFICE

35 Prince Street, Basement
Sioux Lookout, ON P8T 1K6
Tel: (807) 737-1902
Fax: (807) 737-3501