



# Annual Report

2016 - 2017

**WASAUKSING FIRST NATION STRIVES TO  
PROVIDE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO  
DEVELOP, ENHANCE AND SUCCEED IN  
ECONOMIC GROWTH WHILE PROMOTING  
THE CONTINUED SOCIAL, TRADITIONAL,  
AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT OF ITS  
FIRST NATION.**

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## MESSAGE FROM CHIEF WARREN TABOBONDUNG

### *Ahnee, Boozho*

2016/17 was a very busy year and Wasauksing has taken some very large steps in taking control of our own affairs. With community, council and administration, we will continue to develop Wasauksing's agenda, laws and direction. As your Giima, I continue to engage with community to discuss and gather information that helps provide Council with direction on how we move forward.

At this time, I would like to thank the Council of 2015/16 for the contribution in taking and leading us through these bold steps. When it came to developing the Constitution, Council had no hesitation to move forward, their vision was parallel to me as the Chief which is to protect our land, our Citizens and our future. We commend our leadership for this success and acknowledge Community and staff for following through with this great achievement. The Constitution set out the relationship between Chief, Council and Citizens. This document is the foot print of who we are, where we come from and where we want to go as a Nation. It is also the bases of our Law-Making process.

As a Community, we have stepped out of the Indian Act when it comes to our lands. June 1st was the first day our Land Code came into effect. Various land Laws will be developed by Wasauksing and no Chief or Council can make Laws without consulting with the community. Our first Laws must be around protecting our land and the environment.

Wasauksing is included in Waabnoong Bemjiwang Association of First Nations Tribal Council that service the First Nations along the 69 Corridor. They perform various types of services within housing, commercial development and water. Recently, the Tribal Council, with the support of Chiefs' and communities are working on the development of a Native Child Well-Being Agency for our area First Nations.

### *Robinson Huron Treaty Annuity Claim*

The twenty-one (21) First Nations within our Treaty have launched a claim against the Provincial and Federal Governments. This case is about the \$4.00 per year we have received from Canada. When we entered into the treaty, we agreed to share the benefits with the British Crown, benefits that would increase as the economy derived from our traditional lands increased. The trial will start this fall for this important case. The Chiefs and legal team are projecting five years to get through the case, with two of those years having passed already. The case will start in Thunder Bay, but will be in the Treaty area and possibly on some of the Robinson Huron Communities. All 21 Nations have committed research monies years ago.

More recently, we committed monies for the trial as well. The Chiefs' and legal team are very excited and confident about the case. The proceedings are to be webcasted which will give access to all citizens of the Robinson Huron to watch some of the case.

### *Anishinabek Nation*

The Anishinabek have been very busy with the education system we all voted for. Not all Communities voted or voted in favor of the education agreement. Wasauksing's vote was positive and we are moving forward with 14 Communities with 8 having a second vote. This project has been in works for 24 years and finally able to start

moving forward with appropriate programming for our children, our language, culture and values.

## ***Chiefs of Ontario***

The Chiefs of Ontario have been working with the Ontario energy sector in regards to energy cost, the use of our treaty lands and wealth that is being created from our land. The Chiefs' have stated for as long as the Provinces created all their wealth and not shared with the First Nations, all we get is a bill. The Chiefs' were successful with elimination of delivery fees, an equity position within hydro and as well as 25% reduction in billing that all of Ontario will receive. The negotiations will not diminish any claims we as First Nations may have today or in the future.

## ***AFN – Federal Government and Minister Carolyn Bennett***

Both have indicated that money will start to flow towards the back of their four-year term, they needed to build and create capacity to enable them to flow money. The key messages around our priority needs to the Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellgarde, Federal Government Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Carolyn Bennett have been:

- The need for a new bridge;
- Post-secondary funding;
- Youth Issues,
- Opioid Issues;
- Policing and Fire Safety;
- Our need for high speed internet.

Miigwetch,

Chief Warren (Wally) Tabobondung

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

### *Aanii,*

I'm pleased to present our 2016-2017 Annual Report to Wasauksing First Nation leadership and members/citizens. As a requirement of our Financial Administration Law, we look forward to producing an Annual Report each fiscal year moving forward to help you keep informed about our programs, services, annual activities and strategic progress.

This past year was a busy, challenging and productive year for Wasauksing First Nation. Guided by our Strategic Plan for the period 2012-2017, we made some significant progress on a number of important issues and files, including Constitutional Development, the Anishinabek Education System and our Land Code. All of these important initiatives were ratified by our members/citizens through referendums and provide a strong foundation for us to build upon in the area of governance, lands and education. While plenty of work remains in those areas, we are confident that an approach based on self-determination will improve upon a system that was forced on us by the outdated, colonial and paternal Indian Act – a system that was set up for us to fail.

Having our Health Department as a stand-alone department is allowing us to focus more on developing our health programs and services to better meet community needs. It's nice to see our health programs starting to expand and be more inclusive with a harm reduction model of care. Plans have also been developed to help provide some guidance with the challenging community issue of opioid misuse. In the area of Social Services, we received a funding proposal approval to bring back our Wiidookdahwin We-wina Chi B'maadizeyin - Restorative Justice program which will commence around the fall of 2017 until the end of March 2019.

We continue to see some good progress in the area of education and in 16-17 we started to see some of the increased education funding that was promised by the Federal Government. Our children and youth continue to develop and demonstrate their leadership skills and confidence thanks to the support of our dedicated staff. A big congratulations goes out to the Lil Spirit Singers and their role models for their Lieutenant Governor's of Ontario Youth Achievement Award!

Housing and infrastructure continues to be a challenging area due to the lack of operations and maintenance funding and the age of some of our community buildings. Despite funding limitations, we continued to chip away at improvements and also continued with work to submit funding proposals to help make future improvements. One key step that was accomplished in 2016-2017 is that some of our housing programs are now starting to show signs of financial improvement due to rent arrear repayment plan revenue.

Community engagement continued to play a strong role in helping us to develop important initiatives and to make decisions. Thank you to the community for attending sessions and providing us with your feedback. As our current 5 Year Strategic Plan enters its last year, we look forward to engaging the community further to create a new plan to guide us forward collectively from 2018-2023. We encourage you to come out to Strategic Planning engagement sessions and focus groups in the fall and early winter of 2017.

Lastly, I want to thank our staff, leadership and volunteers for their hard work and dedication. While we've taken some great strides, there remains much work to do to reach our vision of the community.

Miigwetch,

Craig Brown, Chief Executive Director

## WASAUKSING FIRST NATION LEADERSHIP

In February of 2017 the WFN General Election took place and we welcomed four new Councillors onto Chief and Council. Each of the Councillors bring with them valuable past experience on Council and we look forward to working with the leadership team over the next two years.

### *2017-2019 Council Portfolio and Committee Listing*

	Portfolio and/or Committee
Chief Warren Tabobondung	Community Development and Governance Housing Citizenship Lands and Resources
Chief Councillor Vince Chechock	Community Development and Governance Education Lands and Resources (Alternate) Economic Development
Councillor Alexander Zygniuk	Community Development and Governance Health/Social Finance and Audit (TBE) Council Trustee
Councillor Brent Tabobandung	Community Development and Governance Housing Citizenship Anishinabek Nation Governance Working Group

	Portfolio and/or Committee
Councillor Dave Rice	Community Development and Governance Education Health/Social
Councillor Theresa McInnes	Community Development and Governance Economic Development Finance and Audit (TBE) Trust Selection Swing Bridge

Chi-Miigwetch to Vera Pawis-Tabobondung, Walter Tabobondung, Roberta Judge-Rice-Clements and Deborah Pegahmagabow for their dedication, leadership and support during the previous leadership term of office.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Our Economic Development Strategic Plan is guiding us forward on a number of economic related issues. We have started to review how our current First Nation owned businesses are structured in the hopes that we can reduce liability to the First Nation and to increase the time we spend on our businesses in order to give them the attention they need to flourish. Also, having dedicated business/economic development staff in place in the future will better enable us to pursue our community's vision for our economy.

We continue to work towards bringing affordable and improved high speed internet to the community. In 2015 we completed a feasibility study which showed that starting our own internet service provider business would not be profitable and would likely be too risky. From there, we did a request for proposal to seek out potential partners who could help us. As a result of our partner assessment, Lakeland Networks was selected as a partner to help bring and deliver a high speed fibre optic cable to WFN homes. Funding applications for the project have been submitted to FEDNOR, NOHFC and the newly announced Connect to Innovate program. We hope to receive good news in the late summer or early fall of 2017.



## WASUKSING MARINA

Any remaining items of the marina modernization/upgrade project were completed last season. The new docks and gas docks, wrap around deck, new electrical in all campgrounds, washroom station, gas pump, security system and main building siding, soffit and fascia have all been well received by customers. In total, \$595,000 was spent to upgrade the facility to better allow us to compete with area marinas and campgrounds.

We are happy to report that after a slight \$6,000 loss in the 15-16 season (the first year with the new additional expense of the First Nation Finance Authority loan repayments for the upgrade project), that the 16-17 season was a profitable one. Sales increased by just over 10% and expenses were just slightly more than the previous season.

As we move forward, we plan to increase marketing activities and also plan to start thinking about the next steps required to bring in additional revenue streams into the business. With the current summer season well underway, we are pleased to note that our campgrounds are experiencing increased customers and that we had a campsite waiting list as of July 1, 2017! Please visit our website at [www.wasauksingmarina.ca](http://www.wasauksingmarina.ca) and help to spread the word about our First Nation owned business.



## WASUKSING MAPLE PRODUCTS

The 2016-2017 season for Wasauksing Maple Products was our most productive in a number of years. We continued to have several preparatory work sessions (summer and fall) to help get everything in order before the season hits. We have found that the additional work sessions have helped to ensure that we are ready for the short and intense operating season. In terms

of production, the crew was able to produce 3400 litres of syrup (up from 1400 litres the previous season) with approximately 4300 taps in place (up from 3500 the previous season). In addition, maple butter was added to the promotional product line. Our product continues to meet all regulations and we also were able to get our maple syrup into additional stores again this season (including Parry Sound Sobeyes). Over the last three seasons we have continued to see good progress to the point that we feel the operation is ready to move to a larger and for-profit operation. The next steps include having a new business plan completed that will help guide us towards the community vision of being one of the larger maple product operations in Ontario.

## FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

### *Department Overview*

The Finance and Administration Department provides finance and administrative support to the various departments of the First Nation in the delivery of programs and services to the membership. Support consists of areas such as human resource management, financial management (including payables, receivables, and payroll), information technology, as well as reception and administrative support. In addition, the Finance and Administration Department delivers the Community Support Fund program to the community and citizens of Wasauksing First Nation.

### *Financial Administration Law*

The Wasauksing Financial Administration Law (FAL) was approved by the First Nation Financial Management Board (FMB) in September 2012. The FAL is a set of standards that govern how Wasauksing conducts the financial management activities of the First Nation.

The FAL is the first step in obtaining certification through the FMB, which demonstrates sound financial practices for the operation, management, reporting and monitoring of financial management system of a First Nation government.

There are two categories of certification required that the FMB provides to First Nations which are the Financial Performance Certification and the Financial Management Systems Certification. Along with certifying sound financial management of a First Nation, these certifications also provide First Nations to become borrowing members of the First Nations Finance Authority (FNFA).

The Financial Performance Certification (FPC) is a point in time assessment of financial condition. Wasauksing received this certification upon acceptance of the FAL from the Financial Management Board, making WFN eligible to become a borrowing member of the First Nations Finance Authority.

The Financial Management System Certification is an assessment to ensure the essential processes and procedures that facilitate compliance with the Financial Administration Law are implemented. FMB provides WFN with support in implementation of processes and procedures for this certification through funding and/or other resources (consultants/tools). As a borrowing member, Wasauksing must obtain this certification by July 2018.

### *OLG Gaming Revenue*

Based on survey results in 2013, the OLG Gaming Revenue Funds were approved to be distributed annually as follows:

- 10% is allocated to GR Administration;
- 20% is allocated to the Community Support Program;
- 70% is allocated to Community Development Projects.

Gaming Revenue Administration supports expenditures such as salaries, administration and program expenses, and Information Technology projects.

Community Development Projects (CDP) are categorized as one-time or on-going projects. One Time projects usually consist of a one-time contribution of funds to an approved project. On-going projects are approved projects which require an annual contribution of OLG Community Development funds.

25% of the CDP funds are set aside for Future Projects to support new one-time projects that are approved through the community engagement process.



The Community Support Program provides financial support to WFN and its citizens to apply for assistance in areas such as Housing, Health, Cultural/Family Activities, and Community Events.

## Highlights from 2016-2017

### *Information Technology*

The accounting system of the First Nation was upgraded to support management and finance staff in maintaining and accessing financial data.

Requests for Proposals were advanced to seek services to upgrade and improve the Wasauksing First Nation e-mail system and website. Proposals were received and reviewed for implementation in the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

## **Financial Administration**

With the support of the First Nation Financial Management Board (FMB), we accessed professional services to update the Financial Administration Law to comply with the latest updates to the FMB standards.

As a part of this project, the Financial Policies and Procedures and Human Resource Policy Manuals of Wasauksing First Nation were reviewed and drafts were completed as of March 31, 2017. Review and approval of the Financial Administration Law is anticipated to be completed in the fall of 2017.

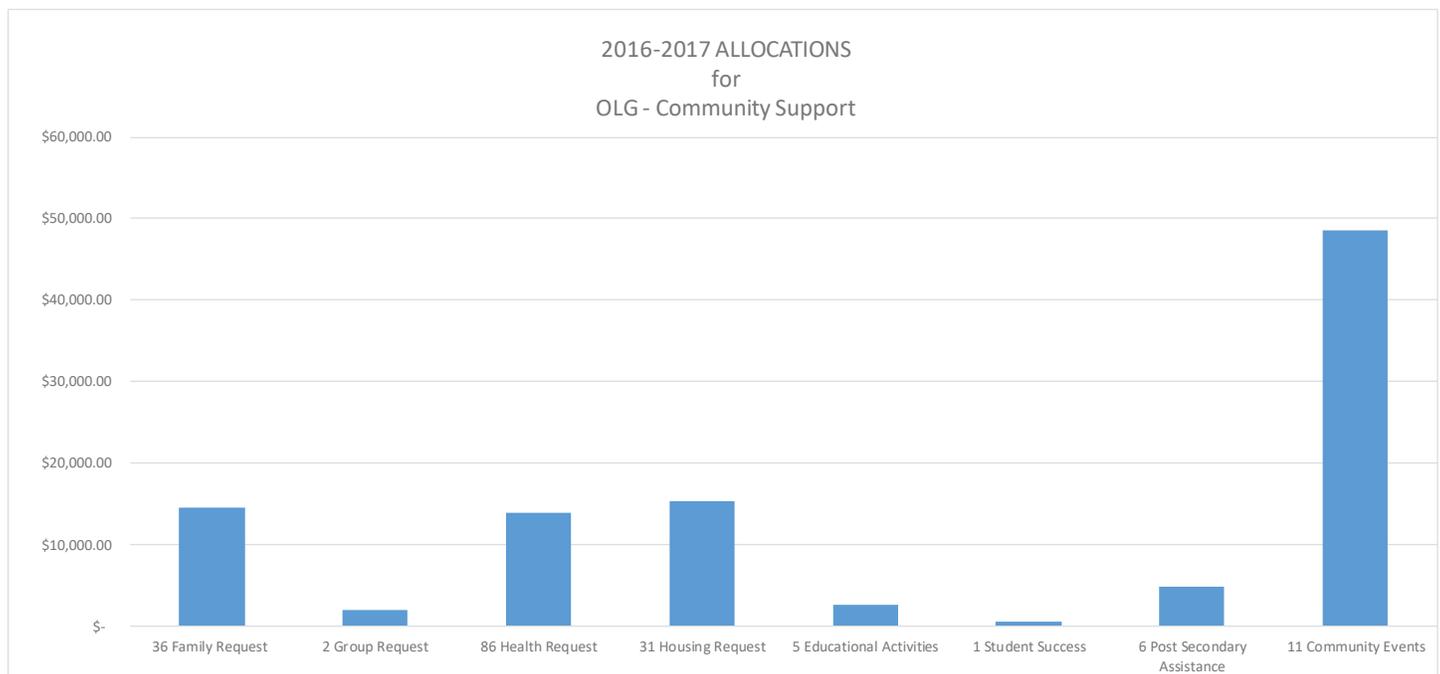
## **OLG Gaming Revenue**

Many of the prior approved One-Time Community Development Projects were completed or near completion in the 2016-2017. On-going projects continued to be supported through the program.

The Annual OLG Community Information Session was held on December 10, 2016 with approximately 266 participants. Participants provided input for potential future Community Development Projects which will be reviewed at our 2017 Information Session.

OLG Trust Development engagement sessions continued throughout the 2016-2017 year, with the final Draft of the Trust Agreement being completed. Calls for applicants of members to the Trust Selection Committee and the Trustees were completed in 2016-2017. We expect to have the Trust operational sometime in the fall of 2017. A Naming contest for the Trust was also conducted in the 2016-2017 year with a decision also expected in the fall of 2017.

The Community Support Program assisted 178 applicants, totaling \$102,442.



## PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works is currently one of the largest departments operating within Wasauksing First Nation. It includes Lands, Citizenship/Membership, Community Consultation, Housing, Roads and Bridges, Community Buildings, Fire Department, Water Plant & System Operations and the Transfer Station.

### Highlights from 2016-2017

#### *Housing*

Phases 1, 2 and 3 Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation (CMHC) Section 95 mortgages have matured and phase 4 matures in May of 2018. The Housing Committee & staff continue to work at implementing the Housing Policy and good progress has been made in the area of housing arrears with 17 arrears repayments plans put into place. We are happy to say that the additional revenue created from the arrears repayments has allowed us to start to pay down the accumulated housing debt of WFN.

Through successful funding applications, we received \$142,000 to retrofit existing phase 4 homes (the 6-plex) with siding, roofing, flooring, kitchen cabinets, windows and several other much needed repairs. We have additional funding applications in for consideration with CMHC.

WFN has been participating in the RBC On-Reserve Housing Program for over a year.



During that time one new home has been constructed, one is currently being constructed and six major renovations are in progress or have been completed. Over the last several years, we also continued to work with the First Nation Market Housing Fund (FNMHF) to address a few areas of concern they noted from our previous application (no housing policy and arrears were the key concerns noted). Our application to the program was resubmitted and reassessed by the FNMHF and we expect to announce our official entry/

acceptance into the program in the summer or fall of 2017! Both programs provide great options for those interested in home ownership or in need of repairs to their homes without the involvement of Indigenous and Northern Affairs or the need for Ministerial Loan Guarantees (MLG's).

### **Roads**

WFN and INAC funded roads & laneways continue to be maintained, with ditching on secondary laneways and culvert replacement being a priority (where funding is available). Our department continues to try to generate additional revenue by providing some fee for service work. To-date, we have completed work for WLI, the Town of Parry Sound and members/citizens. The extra revenue goes a long way to help with our funding shortfalls.

### **Infrastructure (Transfer Station, Water Systems, Swing Bridge, Fire Department)**

Our transfer station staff has been expanded to 2-part time positions with the addition of the OLG garbage pick-up project. Our regular newsletter deliveries have also been incorporated into garbage pickup to help save costs and create efficiencies.

The Youth Soccer Field Project was completed with proceeds from OLG and with a successful funding application to FedNor. The new bleachers, expanded parking area and additional fencing help to enclose our multi-use recreational facility and to help improve the health and safety of players, volunteers and spectators. We also completely switched out all of the lights inside the WACC arena to LED lights to improve lighting and to save costs in the long-term.

Our Water Treatment Plant is engaged in a pilot project with Waabnoong Bemjiwang Tribal Council, to establish digital data collection, monitoring, and remote plant operations. This is an INAC funded project, at no cost to the First Nation. The Operators continue to operate the plant, on less than adequate O&M funding. The Water Plant currently services 130 homes, including cisterns.

The Swing Bridge has been a busy area over the last fiscal year; with \$2.2 million of major repairs completed by various contractors. The project has not been without hiccups resulting in several calls to Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAC) to have their contractors return to rectify issues. Moving forward, we will continue to support our Council in their push for a new bridge. We do expect that funding for the design stage of a new bridge will be announced by INAC in the summer or fall of 2017.

The Volunteer Fire Department currently consists of six staff & two community members. We are now utilizing a full 911 call/dispatch system and emergency calls are received via text message directly to cell phones which is proving to be a quicker and more accurate system of response. We continue to seek more volunteers for this important community service. In addition, the Fire Chief Position is vacant and a replacement is required.

## LANDS

Wasauksing First Nation has a profound relationship with the land that is rooted in respect for the spiritual value of the Earth and the gifts of the Creator. It is the intention of Wasauksing First Nation to maintain Parry Island in its natural state to the greatest extent possible, subject only to the development and use of land in accordance with the Wasauksing First Nation Land Code and Wasauksing First Nation's Community Development Plan (aka Land Use Plan). Both are founded on the philosophy that as caregivers of the Land, we must take responsibility to ensure that appropriate by-laws, development, rules and regulations are implemented to ensure future concerns of the lands (development or preservation) are adhered to, while allowing for the enhancement of the physical, social, and economic well-being of Wasauksing First Nation and its growing membership.

### ***Mission Statement***

To carefully balance the conservation, restoration, and sustainable development of Wasauksing First Nation's lands and resources, in keeping with our traditional values and beliefs, for the benefit of our membership and future generations.

## Highlights from 2016-2017

### ***Wasauksing First Nation Land Code***

The Wasauksing First Nation Land Code Development Process began in 2013 and was concluded on February 25, 2017 with the successful ratification of the Wasauksing First Nation Land Code and Individual Agreement with Canada. Members/citizens of Wasauksing First Nation voted 76% in favour of the Land Code, so we can now begin managing our Reserve Lands and Resources in accordance with our own customs, traditions, and practices, rather than under the land management provisions of the Indian Act.

The Land Code came into force on June 1, 2017, and it is the first step in WFN driven land management.

### ***Land Applications***

Lands received a total of 16 Land Applications for review under the Wasauksing First Nation Community Development Plan (aka Land Use Plan). All completed applications were brought to the Lands and Resource Committee for review before posting for the 30 day Community Review Period. When no concerns were identified, Land Applications were forwarded to Council for approval.

### ***Depot Harbour***

Works to update the Environmental Site Assessment and legal land surveys of Depot Harbour and the old rail line across WFN have begun. These will allow us to restart discussions with Canada to have these lands added back to the Reserve, depending on their environmental condition.

### ***Land Use and Fishing Permit Sales***

Non-members entering onto WFN lands for site-seeing, camping, fishing, or other recreational purposes are

required to purchase a WFN Land Use/Fishing Permit. Permits and land use fees collected for the 2016-17 fiscal year totaled just over \$75,000 which includes revenue received from Bell towers and the Fish Farm.

### ***MNRF Angling Monitoring at Depot Harbour***

In January of 2016, WFN renewed an agreement with MNRF allowing their Conservation Officers to enter onto WFN lands to monitor non-member anglers at Depot Harbour. In 2016, MNRF monitored a total of 126 anglers, directed 50 to purchase WFN Land Use/Fishing Permits, laid 4 charges and issued 33 warnings. The 2016 agreement was renewed for 2017.

### ***WFN Annual Beach Clean-up Day***



**WFN BEACH CLEAN-UP DAY - AUGUST 15, 2016**

On August 15, 2016, WFN held its annual Youth Beach Clean-up Day at Cousineau's Beach. Children attending daycare and other WFN youth came out to help Beach Patrol with the clean-up efforts. The MNRF Youth Rangers also came out to help and gave a short demonstration on seine netting. Lands, Daycare and Health all worked together to make this a fun and educational day for our youth, teaching them about the importance of looking after our land and waters. Our CARA worker, Chuck Baker cooked

up an awesome BBQ lunch, with the help of the Daycare staff, and WFN Lands provided everyone who attended with a WFN Beach Clean-up Day T-shirt.

### ***Three Mile Lake Fish and Fish Habitat Study***

The Anishinabeek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre recently concluded three years of studies of fish and fish habitat studies in Three Mile Lake. Once results of the studies are shared and presented to Chief & Council, more information will be made available, including copies of the studies upon request.

### ***Citizenship/Membership***

Under s.10 of the Indian Act, WFN manages its own membership list, which includes registration for status, births, deaths, marriages, divorces, name changes, adoptions, band transfers and the issuance of status

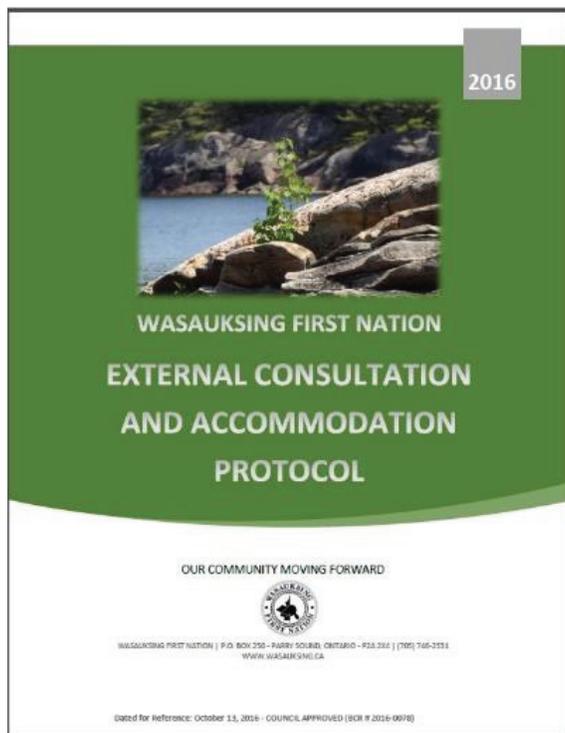


**THREE MILE (SPIRIT) LAKE**

cards. Members of WFN must be registered in both INAC's Indian Registry System and on WFN's Membership List (as per WFN's Citizenship Code). As of February 21, 2017, the total membership of WFN was 934. In early 2017, a new membership database program was purchased and all membership data was transferred to the new system. The new system was used to produce up-to-date Voters Lists for the Constitution-AES Ratification, the WFN General Election and the Land Code Ratification.

### **Community Consultation**

WFN's External Consultation and Accommodation Protocol was finalized and approved by Council. It has been distributed to Government and stakeholders in WFN's Traditional Anishinabek Territory. This fiscal year, the Community Consultation Coordinator received 40 new consultation requests, and responded to 51 requests (some received the previous year). Three Community Information Sessions were held to give WFN Citizens the opportunity to provide feedback and bring forward concerns regarding various projects occurring in our Traditional Territory. In addition, a Community Knowledge Sharing Circle was held, which gave the Community the opportunity to share their information and knowledge of the lands and resources within WFN and WFN's Traditional Territory.



## HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### ***Vision Statement (Health & Social Service (H&SS) Committee)***

We envision that the H&SS Committee will provide advocacy on behalf of our citizens and will forward recommendations on policy directions and initiatives in the area of health and social services within the First Nation and on behalf of the citizens of this community.

### ***Mission Statement (H&SS Committee)***

The H&SS Committee of the Wasauksing First Nation will work to advance a system of advocacy and support on behalf of our citizens which is community-centered, integrated, consistent, equitable, accessible, accountable, and responsive to needs of this community and its citizens.

## Highlights from 2016-2017



### ***Community Aboriginal Recreation Activator (CARA)***

A new logo, specifically for the Ontario CARA programs has been adopted by all communities. Continuous encouragement; building awareness of the role of the CARA worker continues as sports clinics and leagues are formed. Volunteerism is an integral part of the program delivery and volunteer recruitment continues. Through this position, the worker is continually building new skills and taking advantage of training opportunities through the provincial network built up within this program and continually building partnerships and connections through sport, leisure, culture and on-going communication and networking. A Sports Equipment Exchange was held in the early fall, resulting in 140 community participants. Equipment included bikes, track/field, basketball, baseball, soccer, hockey and other miscellaneous sports items. Other events through the program included coaching clinics, women's boot camp, all ages swimming at the Quality Inn, open gym nights, a bowling Tournament, basketball and hockey clinics and Maplefest 2016. A Men's Retreat where the men gathered and took part in fishing at Three Mile Lake also took place and received good feedback.



### *National Native Alcohol and Drug Program (NNADAP) and Mental Wellness*



Work continued on the workplan for addiction and mental wellness with the Mental Wellness Team from the Native Horizons Treatment Centre. A series of workshops for workers, leadership and community were offered throughout the year, including:

- “Circle of Care Training”;
- The Addicted Brain;
- Structured Relapse Prevention;
- Case Management Training.

In an attempt to outreach and engage with as many of our citizens as possible, briefings were forwarded to the Chief and Council on the need to adopt a “harm reduction model” for all programs and services within the health department. In May 2016, “harm reduction” approach was applied to all programs and services within WFN-Health programming.

Continuing and new programs of NNADAP include the following:

- Parry Sound High School-Wednesday Lunch;
- New-Men’s Support Group;
- New-Women’s Support Group (2nd Monday);
- New-Youth Drop-in (every 2nd Friday);
- Games Night (every 2nd Thursday);
- Monthly Dinner & Bingo;
- National Addictions Awareness Week;
- HIV/AIDS information sharing forums.

All programs offer peer support, alternative social activities and are usually accompanied by a nutritious meal. On-going comments and ideas about program change are encouraged. Continuing programs and services include the screening/assessment and supports offered if citizens and/or families request a referral to treatment.

### ***Community Health Representative Program (CHR) Community Health & Surveillance***



Similar to and in concert with the NNADAP program, the Community Health & Surveillance Program continues to provide the bulk of prevention and promotional programming to the community. Due to the array of programs and services they have been separated into the following areas of health:

- Community Health and Wellness;
- Well Baby Clinics-8 sessions 16/17;
- Diabetes Support Program-individual and groups sessions;
- Community Kitchen 3rd Wednesday of every month;
- Footcare-20 sessions/40 individuals;
- Swimming & Lunch Outings;
- Women's Support-wellness days, pampering;
- Men's Support-wellness days;
- Health Fair-over 100 people in attendance;
- Elders' Gathering-October 2016;
- Welcoming Babies to the Community-January.

One-on-one sessions were made available as needed. This may include screening for potential referral to other supports in the area or region.

#### Health Surveillance;

- Community Notifications on radio and in foyer of nursing station required re: recalls etc.;
- West Nile Virus-collection of mosquitos;
- Deer/Black Tick (Lyme Disease) collection of ticks from the citizens;
- On-going updates to Pandemic Plan.

Traditional Healing and Wellness;

- Awareness of available healers;
- Assistance with spirit feasts;
- Sweat Lodge assistance;
- Medicine Walks/Medicine Making Workshops.

### ***Medical Transportation Program***

Provides daily in-town and out of town medical transportation for citizens. Communication and arrangements for this support are ideally, made one week in advance. Prior approval system for accommodations; meals and travel for long-distance medical appointments have been instituted now for two years which has assisted with maintaining expenses within budget.

### ***New and Exciting developments:***

**Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN)** is a specialized medical communication system that was acquired this year and was fully operational in May 2017. It is available through bookings and referral case management with the Health Director in concert with program worker.

A call for **Primary Healthcare Team** funding proposals is expected this coming fiscal and we are preparing the background documentation and informal supports for the call. We will be seeking funding in the application for a Medical doctor, Nurse Practitioner, Traditional Healer and Assistant, and Medical Administrative Assistant as per the objectives of the WFN Strategic Plan.

There will be an upcoming final call application submitted to the **Ontario Local Poverty Reduction Strategy-2017**. Our funding application will seek funding to evaluate our Good Food Box Program and to support gardening projects and nutritional guideline development.

## SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

### ***Ontario Works***

Since 2012, WFN has been in full Ontario Works which includes: Income Support, Employment Support, Family Support and Administration. Our annual funding totaled \$845,000 with an average caseload size of 20 Families (with 51 dependents); 35 singles and 4 temporary care cases. In addition, we had 65 applicants under the Transitional Support Fund.

Employment Support activities during the fiscal year included:

- a chainsaw course in partnership with Shawanaga First Nation that had 21 participants;
- Basic Administrative and Computer Courses with Canadore;
- Money Smart with YMCA;
- Annual Career Fair hosted by the WFN Employment & Training Centre;
- First Nation Job Fund Project for 6 Youth with Gezhtoojig;
- The “Dress for Success” Program;
- Meet & Greet in September with local partners.

Income Support activities include applicant intake which take an hour and requires an array of questions to be answered, forms and consents signed and identification verified. Income Support activities are channeled through the worker and include providing verification on employment, questions relating to moving, disconnections, fuel, replacement of essential furniture, etc. A good opportunity is provided to participants during the monthly drop-ins to ask questions and ensure that their monthly income statements are handed in on time. It is also a time to connect with OW Family worker to develop a plan and touch base with resources that may be available to your family.

### ***Right to Play and After School***

This program was instituted during the 2015-16 fiscal year and provides activities for children. WFN administers two groups as the age range is 7-18. Programming was also made available on many Saturdays. Program participants went on several out-trips including Halloween @ Wonderland, a Blue Jays game. In addition, there was joint-planning with Henvey Inlet and Shawanaga on badminton, basketball and volleyball and also training/coaching sessions sponsored by The Right to Play.

### ***Family Support and Resources***

This program assists with children and family-oriented activities. Pre-natal workshops are offered to expectant moms with themes and sharing of knowledge. The worker and the Community Health Rep. collaborated on special events during the year such as the Welcoming Feast for our newborns (held in January of each New Year). We also had other special activities during the fiscal year with the purchase and distribution of back to school supplies; a Halloween party, the Children’s Xmas Party with other WFN department staff assisting (i.e. Volunteer Fire Department).

Our Family Support Worker also takes the lead on the First Nations Student Nutrition Program for Kinomaugewgamik which provides a healthy snack/breakfast for the students during the school year. In addition, help and support continues to be provided for members/citizens and families involved with the Children’s Aid Society, Migizoons (Little Eagle) Child Care Centre

## EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

### ***Migizoons (Little Eagle) Child Care Centre***

#### **Mission Statement**

“We believe that our children are our future and the community raises everyone’s child. We will foster a sense of independence, a sense of self-esteem and develop cultural awareness of each child, each adult and the community as a whole.”

*Children’s early experiences last a lifetime.*

*How Does Learning Happen?*

*Ontario’s Pedagogy for the Early Years, 2014*

In 2013, the government released the *Ontario Early Years Policy Framework*. The vision for Early Years programs is outlined in the resource document: *How Does Learning Happen? Ontario’s Pedagogy for the Early Years, 2014*.

Child care licensing requirements are set out by the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* (CCEYA)

The goals of Early Years education are built upon these foundations:

- Every child has a sense of belonging when he or she is connected to others and contributes to their world;
- Every child is developing a sense of self, health, and well-being;
- Every child is an active and engaged learner who explores the world with body, mind, and senses;
- Every child is a capable communicator who expresses himself or herself in many ways.

In accordance with our mission statement, two basic principles that specifically enhance the family are:

1. To promote child care service and activities which will enhance the whole child, their spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and social development;
2. To ensure that the rights of the child and the rights of the parents/guardians are looked after. To involve the parents is to consult them on all aspects of the children’s day at the Centre.

We strive to involve families in the Child Care Centre in some of the following ways:

- Special Breakfasts;
- Holiday Dinners;
- Invitations to outings (trips);
- We ensure that children are visible and part of the community;
- We involve children and families in community events;
- Educators are always open to speak with parents about their child;
- Daily postings are shared about what learning has happened throughout the day;
- Parents are consulted on what they feel is best for their child and how we can best accommodate that within the Centre.

Our Child Care is licensed for:

- Infants (6 to 18 months) 6;
- Toddlers (18-30 months) 15;
- Preschool (30 months up to 6 years) 16;
- School Age (68 months up to 13 years) 30.

During the summer months, we increase the enrolment to accommodate more children.



Our new playground is a great example of the learning environment that we provide to foster the growing independence and competence of our children within the Centre.

It is made of natural material which connects with the senses, giving the children a connection to nature, to be free to explore who they are and what they are capable of.

We like to give our children natural material to explore, so that they may get a better understanding of the world around them, to better solve problems, create and represent ideas, and test and question the natural world.

### ***Wasauksing Kinomaugewgamik***

In 2016-17, our enrolment increased to 57 students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8.

#### Curricular and Co-curricular Highlights

Throughout the year, we continued our strong focus on student success, achievement, and well-being. This was manifested in several ways:

- EQAO testing, Confident Learner Initiative;
- School/Class trips and community events e.g.; Terry Fox Walk, Open House/BBQ, Earth Day; Anishinaabemowin Bingo, Annual Water Walk and Pow Wow;
- Anishinaabemowin Language program daily.

Through our partnership with Kenjgewin Teg, we worked closely with resource educators (e.g., Literacy, Numeracy, and Information Technology Teachers) who provided ongoing professional development and expertise to us.

Our Special Education programming consists of an integrated model of support, supplemented by highly skilled paraprofessionals including a Speech/Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist and a Behavioural Consultant.

Co-curricular activities include:

- Little Spirit Singers & Big Drum group;
- Gardening Club;
- Winter Olympics;
- Chess Club;
- Sports Activities and Events (e.g. Basketball, Curling, Volleyball, etc.).



### ***Little Spirit Singers***

A community celebration was held in June, 2016 to honour our Little Spirit Singers, who received the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Youth Achievement. In addition, we acknowledged the support of Deina Bomberry and Diane King, who provide leadership to the students.

### ***Aapji mino nokiiwag kwezensag miinwaa shkiniikwag***



### ***First Nation, Métis and Inuit Collaborative Inquiry/Ziisbakwod Celebration***

As part of our focus on mathematics, the teachers and students in our grade 6/7/8 classroom were involved in a collaborative project with the Near North District School Board.

Our staff engaged in several professional development sessions, and applied this knowledge within our local school environment. The students conducted an extensive mathematics inquiry stemming from our activities in gathering sap and preparing maple syrup in our sugar bush.

The unit culminated in a school-wide pancake breakfast that was hosted by our grade 6/7/8 students, who proudly shared the maple syrup that they had produced.

### ***Niinwi Dbaadendang - We Care (School Wide Positive Reinforcement Program)***

Students have eagerly taken to the blue slips that encourage and recognize thoughtful, caring behaviours. They have been proud to see the bulletin board fill up with Niinwi Dbaadendang (We Care) certificates with their names and positive contributions recorded on them. Once the board is filled, the entire school celebrates their achievements! In the past year, they have earned an opportunity to make their own sundaes, as well as trips to Science North and to the cinema to see the movie “Trolls”.

From JK/SK to grade 8, all the students are thrilled to be noticed for their good choices and acts of kindness. As a result, we continue to see more and more positive behaviours throughout the school. We are working on maintaining the students’ motivation and interest in the program, by varying the rewards and handing out certificates in a timely manner so the students can see how meaningful their good efforts truly are.

### ***Book Bags***

Backpacks filled with books were excitedly received by all our students in June. These gifts were distributed at our annual end of year awards day ceremony, and students were soon engrossed in reading them. We know that the students were eagerly looking forward to continuing to read these books throughout the summer.

In addition, our students received generous gifts of backpacks containing back-to-school supplies in September.

G’chi miigwetch to all of our donors!



### ***Art Exhibition and School Pow Wow***

Several local schools from the Near North District School Board joined the students of Wasauksing Kinomaugewgamik for a day of celebration and friendship at our annual pow wow.

As part of the event, our students proudly displayed the artworks that they had created.

As part of the event, our students proudly displayed the artworks that they had created.



### ***Parry Sound High School/Rosseau Lake College***

In 2016-17, 18 students attended Parry Sound High School, & 13 of those students live on reserve. 8 students attended Rosseau Lake College. 2 students graduated in June, 2016.

Lunch with Luci (Dine with Deanna) is provided every week at Parry Sound HS. In conjunction with the staff at Parry Sound HS, the WFN Education Counsellor and the N.A.A.D.P. worker provide lunch and a forum for discussion on various topics of interest for the students.

Both of our secondary school partners provide information sessions to assist our families with the transition to high school, as well as several opportunities for students to become familiar with the secondary school environment.

For instance, our students proudly participate each year in the Parry Sound HS pow wow. In addition, a family symposium was held at Parry Sound HS, featuring the topics of First Nation, Métis and Inuit Treaty Relationships as well as Resilience through Mindfulness.

Rosseau Lake College offers a “Student 4 A Day” program annually for prospective new students in grades 7 – 12. This year, Rosseau Lake College also embarked upon a Consultation/Outreach Programme and hosted a Seven Generations Summit.

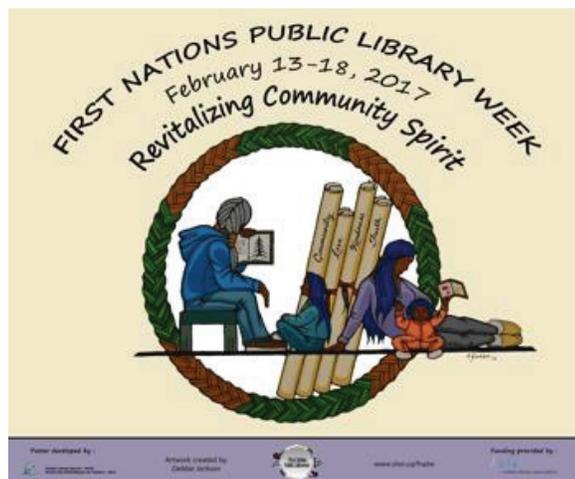
### ***Wasauksing First Nation Public Library***

The Wasauksing First Nation Public Library offers an extensive range of services to community members. These include:

- Webinars;
- e-Resources;
- Computer Stations;
- Assistance with patron-directed activities such as research, resume building, job searches and on-line applications, EI claims;
- Programming (e.g., school and child care).

In addition to our current collection, we are able to access over 200 public libraries and their services through our affiliations with the Ontario Federal Association of Public Libraries and The First Nation Public Library Association.

Wasauksing First Nation Public Library also proudly participates annually in the First Nation Communities Read Program. As of 2016-17, over 350 library cards have been issued.



### **Post-Secondary Education**

In 2016-17, 33 students received funding to attend College or University programs, through the Wasauksing Post-Secondary Sponsorship Program. 5 successful graduates were honoured during our 2016 WFN Annual General Assembly.



*Celebrating our Graduates, July 2016*

The Education Counsellor maintains student files, completes nominal roll, sponsorship letters, liaises with the colleges & universities, completes monthly & yearly budgets, provides students with applications, & re-applications for funding, and assists in determining student eligibility through the Wasauksing Post Secondary Sponsorship Program (WPSSP).

### **Post-Secondary Prep Night/Sessions**

These sessions were designed to provide all students with a better understanding of our policy & guidelines. Some of the topics for the evenings included: budgeting workshops, an overview of fees for colleges and universities, as well as life skills training.

Due to limited enrolment, some of the workshops were put on hold. However, for future sessions, plans have tentatively been made to invite some previous graduates to share some words of wisdom with our up-and-coming post-secondary students. We also hope to go on a road trip to a college or university campus.

### **Employment and Training Centre**

A variety of services are made available jointly through the Employment and Training Centre. Gezhtoojig Employment & Training visits the center once per month to assist community members in resume development & updating, job search, & possible business opportunities.

Contact North visits the Centre twice per month to help students get ready for upgrading, computer programs, on-line training etc. A satellite site for Contact North is housed within the Employment and Training Centre, with computer stations available for community use.

Staff also continue to assist community members with job searches, resume writing, photo copying, faxing, typing programs, etc. Training opportunities are provided when they come available.

An annual highlight is the Community Job Fair and Yarket. This year, over 145 people were in attendance and there were 25 booths. It was a record-breaking year!



Our Amazing "Go Too Crew" 2017

### **Anishinabek Education System**

*Anishinaabe Kinoomaadziwin Nongo, Anishinaabe Pane*

#### **Guiding Vision**

*There must always be Anishinaabe. We, the Anishinabek, must prepare our citizens for the quality of life based on the highest standards of Anishinaabe intellectual, holistic knowledge that supports the preservation and on-going development of the Anishinaabe.*



A ratification vote on the Anishinabek Education System was held in Wasauksing First Nation in November – December, 2016. The results were 197 votes for yes and 14 votes for no. As a result of this process, Wasauksing First Nation voted to join the Anishinabek Education System.

#### **AES Structure**

The Anishinabek Education System consists of a central education body – the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body, regional education councils and Anishinabek First Nations. Participating First Nations will make their own education laws, and will appoint the central body's board. Wasauksing First Nation is part of Regional Education Council #3. Catherine Pawis (Principal) represents Wasauksing First Nation on the board.

The Anishinabek Education System will be fully operational in April, 2018. Our next steps in preparing for this important phase include the creation of our Education Law, to be adopted by Chief and Council through a Band Council Resolution. The Education Committee will be assisting in the development of our Education Law, in accordance with the terms of our Constitution.



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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Council and Members of Wasauksing First Nation

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Wasauksing First Nation which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2017, the statements of financial activities, changes in net financial assets and cash flows, and notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

### *Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### *Auditors' Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



*Opinion*

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Wasauksing First Nation as at March 31, 2017 and its results of operations, its changes in net financial assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'KPMG LLP' with a horizontal line underneath.

Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

July 22, 2017

Sudbury, Canada

**WASAUKSING FIRST NATION**

Exhibit A - Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2017, with comparative information for 2016

	2017	2016
<b>Financial Assets</b>		
Cash	\$ 3,732,601	\$ 3,014,068
Restricted cash (note 2)	321,713	320,675
Marketable securities (note 3)	2,822,246	2,684,933
Consolidated revenue trust fund	21,880	19,449
Accounts receivable (note 4)	600,196	1,055,026
	<u>7,498,636</u>	<u>7,094,151</u>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	846,923	912,330
Deferred revenue (note 5)	596,584	685,753
Obligations under capital lease (note 6)	110,494	82,780
Long-term debt (note 7)	1,508,747	1,626,076
	<u>3,062,748</u>	<u>3,306,939</u>
<b>Net financial assets</b>	<b>4,435,888</b>	<b>3,787,212</b>
<b>Non-Financial Assets</b>		
Tangible capital assets (note 8)	23,184,374	25,254,184
Prepaid expenses	53,123	38,568
	<u>23,237,497</u>	<u>25,292,752</u>
<b>Contingent liabilities (note 9)</b>		
<b>Accumulated surplus (note 10)</b>	<b>\$ 27,673,385</b>	<b>\$ 29,079,964</b>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Approved:

Two handwritten signatures are present, each written over a horizontal line. The signature on the left is more stylized and cursive, while the signature on the right is more legible and blocky.

**WASAUKSING FIRST NATION**

## Exhibit B - Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended March 31, 2017, with comparative information for 2016

	Budget (Unaudited)	2017	2016
<b>Revenue:</b>			
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (note 11)	\$ 3,775,119	\$ 3,606,534	\$ 3,733,072
Health Canada	668,407	664,543	767,349
Ontario First Nations Limited Partnership	831,975	832,732	730,302
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	232,986	247,256	146,750
Provincial funding	1,844,474	1,845,030	1,770,727
Rentals, leasing and permits	310,309	402,257	554,688
Interest and investment income	-	153,731	213,308
Loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	(1,013,362)	-
Other	912,973	1,205,593	1,032,837
	8,576,243	7,944,314	8,949,033
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Band Support	1,073,756	781,259	939,138
Social Assistance	1,078,393	1,056,656	1,093,295
Education	1,815,156	1,676,466	1,611,083
Economic Development	286,876	162,192	371,076
Land Management	361,726	320,763	332,022
Community Infrastructure	1,203,252	2,172,236	2,246,384
Community Property	475,498	428,525	406,285
Day Care Operations	721,938	739,137	779,678
Native Child Welfare	182,030	189,091	128,934
Health Services	921,622	858,530	744,178
Library	19,113	17,123	19,111
Employment and Training	138,780	150,774	60,349
CMHC Housing	139,103	297,000	356,012
Rental Housing	121,927	244,933	287,435
Marina	231,400	256,208	250,680
	8,770,570	9,350,893	9,625,660
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	(194,327)	(1,406,579)	(676,627)
Accumulated surplus, beginning of year	29,079,964	29,079,964	29,756,591
Accumulated surplus, end of year	\$ 28,885,637	\$ 27,673,385	\$ 29,079,964

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**WASAUKSING FIRST NATION**

## Exhibit C - Statement of Changes in Net Financial Assets

Year ended March 31, 2017, with comparative information for 2016

	2017	2016
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	\$ (1,406,579)	\$ (676,627)
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(277,318)	(1,024,387)
Amortization of tangible capital assets	1,333,766	1,371,007
Loss on disposal of tangible capital assets	1,013,362	-
	663,231	(330,007)
Use (acquisition) of prepaid expenses	(14,555)	22,368
Change in net financial assets	648,676	(307,639)
Net financial assets, beginning of year	3,787,212	4,094,851
Net financial assets, end of year	\$ 4,435,888	\$ 3,787,212

See accompanying notes to financial statements.