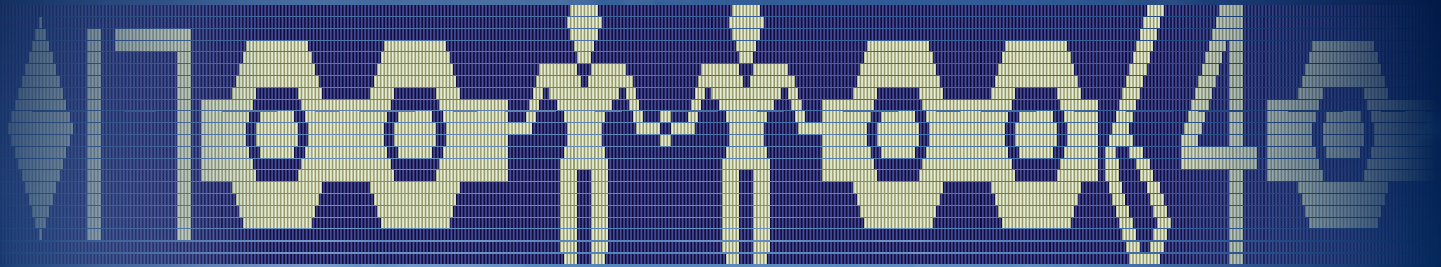


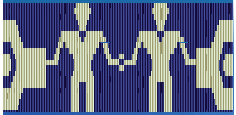
# LANDS, RESOURCES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FORUM

FEBRUARY 16 TO 18 • 2021



KINA-GEKO-NAABADOSIN  
EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED





LANDS,  
RESOURCES &  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
FORUM  
2021



# PREAMBLE



## **Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe One Anishinaabe Family**

**Debenjiged gii'saan anishinaaben akiing giibi dgwon gaadeni  
mndoo waadiziwin.**

Creator placed the Anishinabe on the earth along with the gift of spirituality.

**Shkode, nibi, aki, noodin, giibi dgosdoonan wii naagdowendmang  
maanpii shkagmigaang.**

Here on Mother Earth, there were gifts given to the Anishinabe to look after fire, water, earth and wind.

**Debenjiged gii miinaan gechtwaa wendaagog Anishinaaben waa  
naagdoonjin ninda niizhwaaswi kino maadwinan:**

The Creator also gave the Anishinabe seven sacred gifts to guide them. They are:

**Zaagidwin, Debwewin, Mnaadendmowin, Nbwaakaawin,  
Dbaadendiziwin, Gwekwaadziwin miinwa Aakedhewin.**

Love, Truth, Respect, Wisdom, Humility, Honesty and Bravery.

**Debenjiged kiimiingona dedbinwe wi naagdowendiwin.**

Creator gave us sovereignty to govern ourselves.

**Ka mnaadendanaa gaabi zhiwebag miinwaa nango megwaa  
ezhwebag, miinwa geyaabi waa ni zhiwebag.**

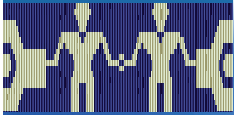
We respect and honour the past, present and future.

(Preamble to the Anishinabek Nation Chi-Naaknigewin - as adopted by the Grand Council in June 2011)

## **CONTENTS**

<b>GOAL &amp; OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>MESSAGE FROM GRAND COUNCIL CHIEF GLEN HARE</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>OUR SPEAKERS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>AGENDA</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>REGIONAL MAP</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>OUR ORGANIZERS</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>NOTES</b>	<b>25</b>





LANDS,  
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FORUM  
2021



WELCOME



## GOAL

The goal is to build positive working relationships with each First Nation, our citizens, Government, industry, and academia.

A positive working relationship is where we can come to understand and respect each other's views and perspectives.

## OBJECTIVES

To establish a regional framework that will allow Anishinabek leadership and technical expertise to gather and discuss the local and regional priorities, concerns, opportunities.

To enhance decision-making that will act on matters that will protect our jurisdiction, traditional territory and rights.

To increase communications and to understand each other's needs, priorities, and opportunities.



## MESSAGE FROM GRAND COUNCIL CHIEF GLEN HARE

Welcome to the fifth annual Lands, Resources, and Economic Development Forum. Over the past four years, we have seen how all of us – our environment, our resources, our First Nations, and economies – are connected. The theme of this year’s Forum aims to highlight how, despite the past year’s challenges and need to stay apart, we are connected, from Nation to Nation, whether our citizens are on or off reserve.

The last time we gathered was in 2019 – a different time, no doubt – and we focused on needing to strike a balance between preserving our territories and growing sustainable economies that will allow future generations to thrive. We talked at the 2019 Forum about industrial development, innovation, and economic development while upholding the importance of maintaining balance in the natural

environment. Our guests provided insight into the unique needs of their respective First Nations and how we should work together and support each other’s initiatives as Treaty partners. Balancing growth and preservation, individual needs and the collective, and present and future is no short order, but it is made possible by our connected history.

The year 2020 tested our ability to stay connected – the in-person gatherings that are so ingrained in our culture were unable to be held. As First Nation people our cultural traditions – smudging, sweats, and powwows to name a few – are central to our social lives, business, and governance. Throughout the year, we have undoubtedly struggled to adjust to virtual meetings. We know that some First Nations lack the technical infrastructure to carry out business at full capacity; some individuals do not feel comfortable; and we lose the personal element when interacting solely through a screen.

Despite our challenges, we have found ways to connect and share ideas, provide support, and move forward with our initiatives. Our community leaders and representatives have stepped up to the plate to ensure that we stay on the same page and continue our work in a good way. We remain connected through our challenges and trust that we will meet again in-person soon.

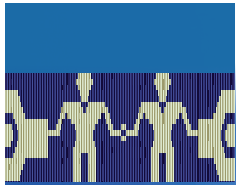
Over the coming days, we will discuss the ongoing issues surrounding our environment and the rapidly evolving socioeconomic landscape. I am looking forward to hearing your unique perspectives on how we can address these issues while we continue to monitor the ongoing public health crisis.

Chi-Miigwech for taking the time to meet in this virtual setting. Miigwech also to the Lands & Resources and Economic Development Departments for bringing us together once again. We can learn a lot from one another as we connect over the next few days and we can continue in the right direction as we preserve our connection for generations to come.

Yours in Nationhood,

Glen Hare (Gwiingos)  
Grand Council Chief  
Anishinabek Nation





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# OUR SPEAKERS



**Glen Hare**  
Anishinabek Nation  
Grand Council  
Chief  
M'Chigeeng  
First Nation

A citizen of M'Chigeeng First Nation on Manitoulin Island, Glen Hare served four consecutive terms as Deputy Grand Council Chief of the Anishinabek Nation before being elected into the position of Grand Council Chief at the Grand Council Assembly in Fort William First Nation in June 2018.

Grand Council Chief Hare served six consecutive terms as Chief of M'Chigeeng First Nation, three consecutive terms as a Councillor, and two terms as the Regional Grand Chief for the Lake Huron Region. Glen Hare is a fluent Anishinaabemowin speaker and also an outspoken advocate for First Nations child welfare and customary care laws. He has been critical of the government imposition of non-Indigenous child protection legislation and favours the establishment of our own child and family service laws, interventions and First Nations foster homes.

Glen Hare has worked for the First Nations Independent Fuel Handlers Cooperative, and was a central figure in its development. The Fuel Handlers Cooperative provides petroleum products and heating oil to First Nations throughout Anishinabek Nation territory. In addition to his role as Grand Council Chief, he is also the President of the Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity.



**Edward Wawia**  
Regional Deputy  
Grand Council Chief  
- Northern Superior  
Red Rock Indian  
Band

Chief Edward Wawia started his career in the mining industry where he worked for 40 years. He served his home community of Red Rock Indian Band as Councillor for 10 years before serving as Chief for two and a half more. In June 2018, he was elected Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief of the Northern Superior Region of the Anishinabek Nation. In addition, he is Chief of the Lands and Resources and Justice as well as the Health and Justice Portfolios for the Anishinabek Nation.

Chief Wawia has served as a representative of the Anishinabek Nation for five years on the Forestry Commission and continues to contribute to the modernization of forestry tenure in Ontario as a member of the Oversight Group. He served on the Board of Directors of the company that manages the Lake Nipigon Forest that held the Sustainable Forest Licence for 10 years. He sits on the Board of Directors of Nedaak that manages the Kenogami Forest in Northern Ontario. He is passionate about water conservation and management, and is an active member of the management teams of two Fisheries Management Zones in Lake Superior. He has also been involved in water management planning for the Nipigon and Namewanaminican River Watersheds for more than 10 years.



**Chief Scott McLeod**

Regional Chief -  
Lake Huron

Nipissing First  
Nation

Scott McLeod was first elected Chief of Nipissing First Nation in July 2015 and took office in August 2015. Chief McLeod was successful in securing a second term in the July 2018 election.

With a professional background in Freshwater Fisheries Management, Chief McLeod has over 25 years of experience working in both technical and management capacities for a variety of agencies, including Nipissing First Nation, the Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resources Centre, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, where he was also appointed as a Deputy Conservation Officer.

Chief McLeod has been heavily involved in Nipissing First Nation politics, as well as local, provincial and federal initiatives related to Natural Resources Management over the span of his career. He served one term as a Nipissing First Nation Councillor from 2003-2006 and was responsible for overseeing the Natural Resources portfolio.

He has also served on a number of boards related to Indigenous hunting and fishing inherent rights, including as a member of the Lake Nipissing Stewardship Council as the Indigenous Advisor to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, and most recently, as the Ontario Representative for the National Fisheries Committee, which provides advice to the Assembly of First Nations' (AFN), Environmental Stewardship Secretariat – Fisheries Unit, and as the Lake Huron Regional Chief of the Anishinabek Nation.

Chief McLeod is committed to remaining involved in ongoing discussions about the conservation and sustainability of the Lake Nipissing fishery, and the protection of the rights of Nipissing Anishinaabeg.



**James Marsden**

Regional Deputy  
Grand Council Chief  
- Southeast

Alderville  
First Nation

James R. Marsden, a citizen of Alderville First Nation, was elected Chief for 15 consecutive years for Alderville First Nation, plus eight years on Council and two terms as Regional Southeast Chief. In June 2018, Marsden was elected full-time Southeast Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief for the Anishinabek Nation.

Marsden was awarded the 2017 Anishinabek Lifetime Achievement Award. James helped develop the first 100% First Nation-owned 5.7mw Solar Farm in Canada. He is the founder of The SweetGrass Band (bluegrass) 2014 Most Promising Band by the CCBA.

James and his wife Jane have been married for 47 years.





**Joe Miskokomon**

Regional Deputy  
Grand Council Chief  
- Southwest

Chippewas of the  
Thames First Nation

Joe Miskokomon was Chief of Chippewa of the Thames First Nation for 12 years and on its Council for eight years. He served as Grand Council Chief of the Anishinabek Nation for 12 years, and served on the Constitutional Committee of the Assembly of First Nations, and lobbied in London, England, prior to the patriation of the Constitution of Canada. Throughout his career, Joe’s primary interest has been the protection of treaties and Aboriginal rights, and the development of First Nation human resources through education, training and institutional capacity as law-making jurisdictions.

With over three decades of leadership experience, he has achieved many legal milestones with the federal Canadian government regarding Aboriginal treaty rights. For 25 years, he negotiated land rights within treaty areas in Ontario, and hunting and fishing agreements that continue to be in effect to the present day. Casino Rama was a direct result of these negotiations and gave testimony in the Superior Court of Ontario that will transfer nearly \$3 billion to the First Nations in Ontario over a 25-year period.

Joe successfully negotiated two major land claim settlements within his band’s treaty territory with the federal Canadian government, including the \$120 million Big Bear Creek settlement. He has received numerous awards and citations, including the prestigious Anishinabek Lifetime Achievement Award and received an Honorary Doctorate of Education from Nipissing University.



**Nmishomis  
Gordon  
Waindubence**

Head Getzit

Grand Council  
Elder, Lake Huron  
Region

Sheguiandah  
First Nation

Nmishomis Gordon Waindubence is from Sheguiandah First Nation on Manitoulin Island. He is the Anishinabek Nation Head Getzit of the Getzidjig Advisory Council and works tirelessly for the benefit of the Anishinabek Nation and its citizens.

Nmishomis Waindubence provides a much-needed cultural element to the work of the Anishinabek Nation, and provides his support to Leadership at Grand Council and Special Chiefs Assemblies. He also provides Dodemaag (Clan) teachings to many member First Nations where they have long been forgotten, but are slowly being revived with his help to strengthen the Anishinabek Nation.

Nmishomis Waindubence is highly respected and is instrumental in guiding and supporting the goals and priorities of the Nation toward governance.





**Leroy Dolson**

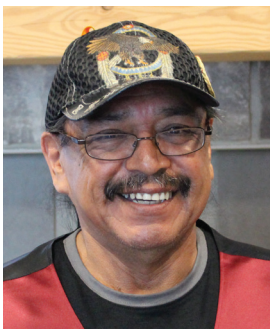
Getzidjig Advisory Council, Southwest Region

Munsee-Delaware Nation

Leroy Dolson is from Munsee-Delaware Nation and a part of the Wolf Clan. He was first elected Chief of Munsee-Delaware Nation in 1984 and served until 1998. Prior to becoming Chief, he was the Munsee-Delaware Nation’s Administrator from 1972 to 1984. In 1971, he was elected to Council for a one-year term.

During his time as the elected Chief, Leroy helped in achieving funding for six nation buildings in his community, which include the Administration Office, Day Care Centre, Healing Lodge, Retail Mall, Health Centre, and the Soap Factory which now houses their Bingo Hall.

In addition to his accomplishments in his community, Leroy has worked with the Anishinabek Nation in many ways as well. He was appointed to the Ontario Revenue Sharing Committee from 1998 to 2000, appointed to the Finance Committee from 1989 to 1998, and appointed to the Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity Board of Directors for a three-year term. Dolson was also appointed to Ontario First Nation Limited Partnership (OFNLP) in June of 2000 to June 2018, where he was responsible for distribution of gaming revenues for 132 First Nations in Ontario.



**Mike Esquega Sr.**

Getzidjig Advisory Council, Northern Superior Region

Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek

Elder Mike Esquega’s home is in Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek/Rocky Bay Reserve. He was born a mile down the old railway called mile board or as our people called it, “giyaabshin niyashi”. He has five children and some grandchildren. Living in Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging most of his life, he worked for Ministry of Natural Resources (it was called Land and Forests back then).

Mike was elected as Councillor in 1983 and then in 1987, and became Chief of his community for three years. He was then elected on Council until 1991. After his run as Councillor, Mike worked for the 1850 Tribal Council and was elected as Chief of his community again from 1993 until 2003 and had the role of Councillor again until 2008. Since 2003, he has been the Elder for Northern Superior Region.

Mike has also held a few positions with Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek as Economic Development Officer, Band Manager and Education Assistant. He also worked on the Royal Commission Project. He has sat on many committees with the Anishinabek Nation such as finance, Resource Management Council, Chiefs Committee on Governance, and the Getzidjig Advisory Council.





**Nora Sawyer**

Kwe-Wuk Advisory  
Council, Southeast  
Region  
Alderville First  
Nation

Kwe-Wuk Nora is from Alderville First Nation, and has been involved in the health field for over 30 years.

Nora has been a Chief of her community and is knowledgeable of her community's issues, including lands and resources.

Nora is an avid volunteer of her First Nation, and a member of the Anishinabek Nation Kwe-Wuk Advisory Council representing the Southeast Region.



**Donna Debassige**

Kwe-Wuk Advisory  
Council, Lake Huron  
Region  
Wiikwemkoong  
Unceded Territory

Donna Debassige, Anishinaabe kwe of the Fish Clan, is from Mnidoo Mnising (Manitoulin Island) and a member of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory. Donna is a mother of three children and grandmother to four grandsons. She is a former Spanish Residential School student and graduated in Fall 2015 from Laurentian University, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree with a combined specialization in Gerontology/Indigenous Studies.

She retired from the United Chiefs & Councils of Manitoulin Tribal Council after 35 years of employment, which began in 1974 with Indian & Northern Affairs, then transferring to UCCM Tribal Council in 2009. Presently, Donna sits with the Anishinabek Nation Kwe-Wuk Advisory Council representing the Lake Huron Region, and is involved with the First Nations Womens' Caucus under Chiefs of Ontario, representing the Anishinabek Nation.

With an avid interest in research, she is an active member of the Manitoulin Anishinabek Research Review Committee, and the Sex Trafficking Research Project with Nipissing University and the Anishinabek Nation. Further to these local research committees, Donna is a new member of the Chiefs of Ontario Data Governance Committee, and is an involved member of the Elders Advisory Council, Indigenous Justice Division of the Ministry of the Attorney General.

On a local level, she sits with the Wiikwemkoong Elders Council and on the Wikwemikong Tribal Police Services Commission for the present two-year term. Donna is a fluent speaker of her original language Ojibway, and is a member of the Rain Dance Lodge.



**Marina Plain**  
Kwe-Wuk Advisory  
Council, Southwest  
Region  
Aamjiwnaang  
First Nation

Marina Plain is the daughter of parents from Aamjiwnaang First Nation and Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory. Her maternal Grandmother was a Henry from Stoney Point. She is a Mother of three and Nookmis to four.

Marina has experience with Employment and Social Services in Aamjiwnaang. Additionally, she has spent time working with the judicial system for a couple of years.

One of her passions is protecting and preserving the water and environment. Marina has spent much of her leadership role in Aamjiwnaang as a member of the Environmental Committee.

Her love and concern for the health and well-being of Aamjiwnaang First Nation members is paramount to her, and personally believes that we are products of our environment.



**Evelyn Stone**  
Kwe-Wuk Advisory  
Council, Northern  
Superior Region  
Michipicoten First  
Nation

Evelyn Stone, Blue Thunderbird Woman, is a proud member of Michipicoten First Nation. She has three adult children, and four grandchildren which brings an awesome journey of happiness. One special person who brings light to her journey is her mother, Agnes - she is her guiding light. Evelyn has two brothers in the community and one sister who lives on the Squamish Nation, BC.

Evelyn has been in many leadership positions during her journey: Chief, Councillor, boards, committees and volunteered for several organizations. This past year, she was selected to represent on the Anishinabe Kwe Advisory Council, which gives her pleasure to sit at this level.





**Autumn Peltier**  
Chief Water  
Commissioner  
Wiikwemkoong  
Unceded Territory

Autumn Peltier is an Anishinaabekwe and citizen of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, a member First Nation of the Anishinabek Nation, and located on Manitoulin Island in Northern Ontario. She is a water protector, or Water Warrior, who has been advocating for the protection of Nibi (water) and Mother Earth since the age of eight. She was inspired and mentored by her Great Auntie Josephine Mandamin, former Chief Water Commissioner of the Anishinabek Nation. She is rooted and guided by the Seven Grandfather Teachings in all of her endeavors.

Autumn gained national and international recognition and uses that platform to emphasize the connection of the Anishinabek to the land and water and their role to protect the lifeline of Mother Earth, and brings to the forefront the need for clean water for First Nations in Canada. Autumn understands that the work to protect Nibi and Mother Earth must happen immediately in order to secure a future for the next generations to come.

Autumn was appointed as the Anishinabek Nation Chief Water Commissioner in June 2019, where she represents the Anishinabek Nation on all matters relating to water. Autumn is a three-time nominee for the International Children's Peace Prize; a nominee for the 2019 Muhammed Ali Humanitarian Award; recipient of 2017 Canadian Living Me to We Award Youth in Action under 12; recipient of the Sovereign Medal of Exceptional Volunteerism in 2017; recipient of 2017 Ontario Junior Citizens Award; 2018 Ottawa Riverkeeper Award; recipient of the 2019 Water Warrior Award from Ecologos; recognized as one of 30 under 30 by North America for Environmental Education; and was named in the 100 Most Influential People in the World for Climate Change Policy in 2019.



**Pierre Debassige**  
Eshekenijig  
Advisory Council,  
Lake Huron Region  
M'Chigeeng First  
Nation

Niigaanseet Nimkii Beneseh (Leader Thunder Bird) is the Spirit Name given to him in a Sweat Lodge. His English given name is Pierre Debassige, and was given to him by his Great-Great-Grandma Josette Debassige-Toulouse. He was born and raised in M'Chigeeng First Nation by his mother, Linda Debassige and his grandfather Mike Debassige.

Pierre is dedicated to helping youth and his community through his travels, and is trying to be an exceptional role model because the youth today need it. Pierre enjoys visiting Elders and listening to their stories. He likes to hunt and fish as much as he can when the seasons come around.

In his downtime, he also likes to read with his grandpa.



**Lance Copegog**

Eshekenijig  
Advisory Council,  
Southeast Region

Beausoleil First  
Nation

Lance Copegog sits as the Anishinabek Nation’s youth representative to the Ontario First Nations Young Peoples Council, and is a member of Beausoleil First Nation.

In 2016, he was appointed as the deputy youth chief of Beausoleil First Nation. In this role, Lance was consistent in meeting with federal and provincial governments and improved relations with local municipalities and school boards. He championed good governance and transparency. Lance also had the opportunity to address audiences in Canada and the United Kingdom on First Nations governance.

An active volunteer, Lance sits on the board of directors for the Indigenous Sports Body, the Indigenous Youth Advisory Committee at the Laidlaw Foundation, and is a member of the Anishinabek Nation Youth Council. He has also volunteered his time with local initiatives and organizations.



**Fred Bellefeuille**

Barrister and  
Solicitor

Anishinabek  
Nation

Fred is a citizen of Nipissing First Nation, graduating from Nipissing University with an Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree with distinction and from Osgoode Hall Law School at York University with an LLB focusing on Aboriginal Lands, Resource and Rights. He is the recipient of several academic awards from both Osgoode Hall Law School and Nipissing University.

Fred has numerous years experience in a number of practise areas including: governmental negotiations; treaty specific claims; elections and appeals; First Nation land law; reserve economic development; public inquiry advocacy; First Nation employment law; contract law; resource law; legislative drafting (First Nation constitutions, laws, codes and by-laws); legislative analysis and advocacy; tribunal and trial advocacy (Ontario Court of Justice and Superior Court of Justice, Ontario Court of Appeal); and First Nation governmental affairs.

Memberships include: Law Society of Upper Canada; Canadian Bar association; Nipissing Bar association; and associate member of the Federal Bar Association in the United States.





**Sarah Rang**  
Executive Director  
Invasive Species  
Centre

Sarah Rang is the Executive Director of the non-profit Invasive Species Centre, whose mission is to protect Canada's land and water from invasive species.

Headquartered in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, the Invasive Species Centre works with many partners to improve invasive species management by increasing economic analyses, catalyzing action and sharing knowledge.

Sarah Rang has helped to create new collaborative environmental initiatives, including a \$1.5 million annual community grant program; worked with First Nations and government to develop a \$85 million trust fund for environmental remediation in Grassy Narrows, Northern Ontario; and worked with the provincial and federal government on joint Great Lakes projects, including the Canada-Ontario Lake Erie Action Plan.

Sarah Rang has also worked with mayors and municipal leaders on Asian Carp prevention and nutrient reduction. She holds a Master of Science from the University of Toronto.



**Lauren Bell**  
Education &  
Community  
Outreach  
Coordinator  
Invasive Species  
Centre

Lauren Bell is the Education and Community Outreach Coordinator at the Invasive Species Centre, and manages the Early Detection and Rapid Response Network of Ontario, a citizen science and community action program aimed at equipping communities with the resources and information needed to detect, report, and manage invasive species in Ontario.

Lauren has presented to a variety of audiences, including the Northern Ontario First Nations Environment Conference in 2016 and 2018 regarding the impacts and importance of reporting invasive species. In May 2019, Lauren presented a workshop at the Taking Care of our Land Climate Symposium focused on future species of concern.

Lauren currently sits as the Canadian representative on the Midwest Invasive Plant Network, and manages the Invasive Species Centre's zooplankton diagnostics laboratory.



**Deborah Sparks**

Business  
Development and  
Communications  
Manager

Invasive Species  
Centre

Deborah Sparks is the Business Development and Communications Manager at the Invasive Species Centre. She aims to help to make positive impacts through her work in the natural resources and non-profit sectors through relationship building, raising awareness of environmental issues, planning meaningful programs and projects, and fundraising.

Deb has worked in business, government, as a high school teacher, and for 10 great years at the Invasive Species Centre. She helped plan and deliver a project inspired by the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that brought together Indigenous Knowledge Keepers and Western forestry scientists. The project aimed to improve decision-making through awareness, give ways for all to participate in meaningful engagement that improved well-being, and find innovative opportunities to transform forest management. This included a mentorship program for Western scientists with Elders and a presentation series by Indigenous Knowledge Keepers from Garden River First Nation, Batchewana First Nation, Missanabie Cree First Nation and Peawanuk Indian Settlement to government scientists.

Deb also leads the annual Orange Shirt Day commemorative event at the Great Lakes Forestry Centre in Sault Ste. Marie in 2019 and is hopeful that the next event can be in-person. She currently sits on the board of the Biodiversity Education and Awareness Network.



**Terri Bulman**

Manager,  
Environmental  
Stewardship Policy

Ontario Ministry of  
Agriculture, Food  
and Rural Affairs

Terri is a graduate of the University of Guelph, and is the Manager of Environmental Stewardship and Policy. She has been with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture for four years, where she plays a key role of supporting development of the agricultural sector, while promoting environmental stewardship.

Terri has been involved in Great Lakes protection, nutrient management, watershed management, organic waste diversion from landfill and energy from waste, as well as food security, Northern Ontario agriculture and aquaculture. She works to enhancement the participation of Indigenous communities in the agri-food sector.

Terri has also worked for the province since 2001 for environment and agriculture ministries and was previously as a consultant in environmental management in Canada and Australia. She comes from Windsor in southwestern Ontario, but now lives in the Niagara region.





**Rob McCann**  
 Founder, Clearcable  
 Networks  
 President, Hamilton  
 Technology Centre

Rob McCann is the founder of Clearcable Networks and President of the Hamilton Technology Centre. He has been working with advanced broadband service deployments in mid-market and rural cable and telephone systems since 1998. He is responsible for building and maintaining technical, network and application intelligence.

Rob works closely with several carriers, cable systems, municipalities, and network service providers in Canada, the United States and the Caribbean providing them with the technology, integration, and business practices required to effectively operate voice, video, and data services in the changing broadband service provider industry.

Rob's active projects include work with ICF recognized Intelligent Communities by chairing the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce Digital Infrastructure Working Group and providing technical insight to Sarnia's Bluewater Regional Network and Newmarket's ENVI Network. He was named the Canadian Independent Telephone Association's 2016 Supplier of the Year and holds degrees in Mathematics from the University of Waterloo and Economics from McMaster University.



**Stéphanie  
 Johnson**  
 Executive Director  
 Environment and  
 Climate Change  
 Canada

Stéphanie Johnson is an Executive Director within Environment and Climate Change Canada, responsible for overseeing initiatives to amend and develop federal environmental laws in matters related to pollution, climate change and conservation.

Stéphanie started her career as a corporate environmental lawyer before making the leap into the federal government out of interest for public service. Since then, she has worked in several departments in roles related to project management, communications and international relations, with the last eight years focused on regulatory and legislative programs within ECCC.

She graduated from McGill University's Faculty of Law with bachelors of civil law and common law. She enjoys being outdoors, cooking, playing with her three young daughters and reading historical fictions (when she has time).





**Tonina Simeone**

Director,  
Environmental  
Directorate

Indigenous Services  
Canada

Tonina Simeone is currently the Director of Environment with the Lands and Economic Development Sector of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). She has been in this role since 2018, and is responsible for the delivery of a number of environmental initiatives, including the First Nations Waste Management Initiative, remediation of contaminated sites, the Indigenous Centre for Cumulative Effects and environmental reviews of projects on-reserve.

Prior to joining ISC, Tonina served as the lead analyst for the House of Commons and Senate parliamentary committees on Indigenous and Northern Affairs for almost 17 years.

She began her journey in the 1990s at what was then known as the Indian Commission of Ontario and while there, had the great pleasure of working with the former Chief of Nipissing First Nation, Mr. Philip Goulais.



**Alan Corbiere**

Assistant Professor,  
Department of  
History

York University  
M'Chigeeng  
First Nation

Alan Ojiig Corbiere, Bne doodem (Ruffed Grouse clan), is an Anishinaabe from M'Chigeeng First Nation on Manitoulin Island. He was educated on the reserve and then attended the University of Toronto for a Bachelor of Science, where he then entered York University and earned his Masters of Environmental Studies. During his Masters studies, he focused on Anishinaabe narrative and Anishinaabe language revitalization.

For five years, Alan served as the Executive Director at the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation (OCF) in M'Chigeeng, a position that encompassed the roles of curator and historian. He has also served as the Anishinaabemowin Revitalization Program Coordinator at Lakeview School in M'Chigeeng First Nation, where he and his co-workers developed a culturally-based, second-language program focused on using Anishinaabe stories to teach language.

He successfully obtained his doctorate and is now an Assistant Professor in the Department of History at York University.





**Sharilyn Johnston**

Environment  
Coordinator,  
Aamjiwnaang First  
Nation

Chippewas of  
Thames First Nation

Sharilyn Johnston is the Environment Coordinator for Aamjiwnaang First Nation. She has worked in this capacity for the last 11 years serving the Aamjiwnaang community and working directly with the Chief and Council.

Sharilyn is a member of Chippewas of the Thames First Nation. She previously worked with the Ministry of the Environment in Technical Support, Abatement and Enforcement. Sharilyn believes consultation and community engagement can be positive for Indigenous communities as they move towards reconciliation.

Aamjiwnaang First Nation has over 52 large Industrial Neighbours that impact their day-to-day lives and their surrounding environment. This has not stopped them from asserting their rights and ensuring environment is at the top of the community priorities. The community engages with Governments, Industry and all project proponents to ensure the community is benefitting from these activities by building relationships.



**Scott Robertson**

Associate and  
Certified Specialist,  
Indigenous Legal  
Issues

Six Nations of the  
Grand River

Scott Robertson is a member of the Six Nations of the Grand River and an associate in the law firm of Nahwegahbow, Corbiere practicing exclusively in matters relating to Indigenous peoples. Scott is certified by the Law Society of Upper Canada as a specialist in Indigenous Legal Issues: Litigation and Advocacy.

Scott was originally elected to the Board of the Indigenous Bar Association in 2014, and served as the President from 2017 to 2019. In addition, he currently serves as a member of the Federal Court's Aboriginal Law Bar Liaison Committee as well as the Action Committee on Access to Justice in Civil and Family Matters.

Working directly with First Nation communities, businesses and organizations, Scott has developed considerable insight into the growing economic needs of First Nations. He is regularly called upon to assist First Nations in negotiations with private and public interest groups to develop innovative economic growth strategies, which incorporate First Nation traditional knowledge.

In addition to his solicitor experience, Scott is also a skillful advocate and litigator who has represented First Nation clients at all level of Courts and Tribunals. He has dedicated his practice to improving the quality of life, health and prosperity for First Nation communities while preserving the unique identity of Canada's original inhabitants.

# Nation Councils

The Anishinabek Nation is supported by three Nation Councils: Kwe-Wuk Advisory Council, Getzidjig Advisory Council, and Eshekenijig Advisory Council. These Councils meet from time-to-time as individual groups or collectively, to discuss areas of concern, review and provide advice on Anishinabek Nation program initiatives and engage in nation-building activities.

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## GETZIDJIG ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Nmishomis Gordon Waindubence**, Anishinabek Nation Head Getzit

**Nokomis Elsie Bissaillon**, Lake Huron Region

**Nmishomis Glen Marsden**, Southeast Region

**Nmishomis Mike Esquega**, Northern Superior Region

**Nmishomis Roy Michano**, Northern Superior Region

**Nmishomis Leroy Dolson**, Southwest Region

## KWE-WUK ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Donna Debassige**, Lake Huron Region

**Marina Plain**, Southwest Region

**Nora Sawyer**, Southeast Region

**Evelyn Stone**, Northern Superior Region

## ESHEKENIJIG ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Quinn Meawasige**, Head Youth Member - Bonnet Holder

**Nathalie Restoule**, Head Youth Member - Bonnet Holder

**Lance Copegog**, Southeast Region

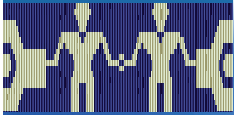
**Pierre Debassige**, Lake Huron Region

**Autumn Bressette**, Southwest Region

**Alexei Meegwan Beauclair**, Northern Superior Region

(Interim Appointment)





LANDS,  
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FORUM  
2021



FORUM AGENDA



# Tuesday, February 16, 2021

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8:30 am

## Registration Opens

- Participants access and log into online webinar

8:45 am

## Forum Welcome

- Thanksgiving / Opening Address
- Mother Earth Drum by Burning Plains  
Tory Fisher, Blair Beaucage, Jordan Mowat
- Reciting of Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe

9:00 am

## Anishinabek Nation Leadership Panel

- Grand Council Chief Glen Hare
- Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief Edward Wawia
- Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief Joe Miskokomon
- Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief James Marsden
- Lake Huron Regional Chief Scott McLeod

10:00 am

## The Impact of UNDRIP

- Fred Bellefeuille, Barrister and Solicitor

## UNDRIP and Anishinabek Nation Councils

- Gordon Waindubence, Grand Council Elder, Getzidjig Advisory Council
- Donna Debassige, Kwe-Wuk Advisory Council
- Marina Plain, Kwe-Wuk Advisory Council
- Evelyn Stone, Kwe-Wuk Advisory Council
- Autumn Peltier, Chief Water Commissioner
- Pierre Debassige, Eshekenijig Advisory Council
- Lance Copegog, Eshekenijig Advisory Council

10:45 am

## Health Break

11:00 am

## Invasive Species Centre Presentation

- Sarah Rang, Executive Director
- Lauren Bell, Education & Community Outreach Coordinator
- Deborah Sparks, Business Development and Communications Manager

12:00 pm

## End of Day 1

# Wednesday, February 17, 2021

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- 8:30 am **Registration Opens**
- Participants access and log into online webinar
- 

- 8:50 am **Forum Welcome**
- Highlights from Day 1
- 

- 9:00 am **Biogas and the Drainage Act**
- Terri Bulman, Manager, Environment Stewardship Policy  
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- 

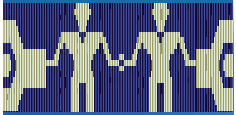
- 10:00 am **Developing First Nation Broadband Strategies**
- Rob McCann, Founder, Clearcable Networks  
President, Hamilton Technology Centre
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- 10:45 am **Health Break**
- 

- 11:00 am **Addressing the Environmental Protection Regulatory & Capacity Gap**
- Stéphanie Johnson, Executive Director  
Environment and Climate Change Canada
  - Tonina Simeone, Director, Environmental Directorate  
Lands and Economic Development Sector  
Indigenous Services Canada
- 

- 12:00 pm **End of Day 2**





LANDS,  
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FORUM  
2021



FORUM AGENDA



# Thursday, February 18, 2021

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8:30 am

## Registration Opens

- Participants access and log into online webinar
- 

8:50 am

## Forum Welcome

- Highlights from Day 2
- 

9:00 am

## 1764 Wampum Belt Teaching

- Alan Corbiere, Assistant Professor  
York University, Department of History  
M'Chigeeng First Nation
- 

10:00 am

## Case Study: Aamjiwnaang First Nation Addresses the Environmental Protection Regulatory & Capacity Gap

- Sharilyn Johnston, Environmental Coordinator  
Aamjiwnaang First Nation
  - Scott Robertson, Associate and Certified Specialist  
Six Nations of the Grand River
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10:45 am

## Health Break

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11:00 am

## Anishinabek Nation Caucus

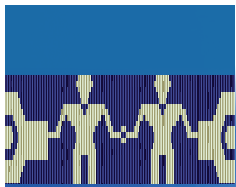
## Closing and Drum Song

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12:00 pm

## Forum Adjourned





LANDS,  
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**Jason Laronde**

Director  
Lands & Resources  
and Economic  
Development  
Departments  
Anishinabek  
Nation

Jason Laronde is a citizen of Nipissing First Nation and the Director of the Lands & Resources and Economic Development Departments of the Anishinabek Nation.

During his 16-year tenure with the Anishinabek Nation, Jason has served on the frontlines of managing natural resource issues. While on the senior management team for the Anishinabek Nation, he has contributed to nationhood priorities in the areas of self-government, jurisdiction and social economic development.

Jason practices what he preaches when it comes to exercising his communal rights as a harvester. One of his primary roles at the Anishinabek Nation is to support the advocacy of exercising and protection of rights. These rights have to be balanced with tremendous responsibility and maintain a healthy respect for Anishinabek principles, values and teachings.

Jason’s background in Civil Engineering plays a formative role when it comes to planning, designing and managing projects, as well as overseeing the day-to-day administration of the Lands & Resources and Economic Development Departments.



**Rhonda Gagnon**

Policy Analyst  
Lands & Resources  
Anishinabek  
Nation

Rhonda Gagnon is an Ojibway from Dokis First Nation and is married with three children. She spends a lot of her time at camp in the Temagami Region, where she is an avid hunter, fisher and gatherer of medicines and berries.

Rhonda is the Lands & Resources Policy Analyst for the Anishinabek Nation and came on-board back in February 2007. She has been passionate about our environment and how human activities are affecting Mother Earth within the Anishinabek Nation.

Rhonda has an extensive background in the Environmental Sector; her educational background includes a college diploma in Environmental Protection and Compliance, and an Honours Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Science and Physical Geography. She obtained her Masters in Environmental Studies with a strong focus on “The Anishinabek Nation in the Great Lakes Basin and Government Perspectives on ‘WHY’ Consultation is Important”, along with a Geomatics Certificate and a Watershed Management Certificate. During her university studies, she received two awards from the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council and the Presidential Gold Medal.





**Lynn Moreau**

Coordinator,  
Agriculture & Food  
Lands & Resources  
Anishinabek  
Nation

Lynn Moreau has been a Program Coordinator with the Lands and Resources Department since April of 2018. Originally from Callander, Ontario, she is married and the mother of two amazing children, Sierra and Talon.

Her passion for growing her own food, ecology and nature makes her a fit as the Lands and Resources Coordinator for Agriculture and Food. She holds a Fish and Wildlife Technician Diploma from Sault College and an Environmental Science degree from Trent University.

Her environmental career has taken a holistic approach to assisting First Nations in the areas of land use planning, law and policy development under FNLMA, environmental assessment and consultation and includes work with both the Ontario government and the private sector.

Recently, with the support of husband Dean, they have opened Green Legacy Farm in Bonfield, where they focus on raising meat chickens and growing their own food. She looks forward to continuing to assist you in growing food and agriculture in your communities.



**Elaine Commanda**

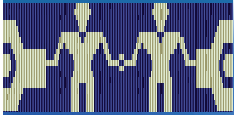
Administrative  
Services Assistant  
Lands & Resources  
Anishinabek  
Nation

Elaine is the Administrative Services Assistant with the Lands & Resources Department for the Anishinabek Nation. Her background in administration is derived from working for her home community of Nipissing First Nation.

Elaine has dedicated much time to serving on the Natural Resources, Cultural, and Health committees, and her land-based teachings include: Feather Carriers Training, Traditional Medicines, and Cultural Teachings; all of which contribute to the Lands and Resources - four directions, four elements, animal kingdom, and seven generations to come.

Elaine would like to acknowledge the original caretakers of Mother Earth and ecologists as our parents and grandparents before us. Our job is to uphold and share the original instructions for our future, as knowledge carriers and protectors of all natural resources.





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**Megan Goulais**  
Economic Policy  
Analyst  
Economic  
Development  
Anishinabek  
Nation

Megan Goulais is the Economic Policy Analyst for the Lands and Resource Department at the Anishinabek Nation. She is a member of Nipissing First Nation, currently residing in North Bay, Ontario.

Her educational background consists of a Bachelor of Business Administration, within the stream of Marketing, from Nipissing University (North Bay, Ontario) and a Master of Science in Tourism Marketing from the University of Surrey (Guildford, United Kingdom).

Throughout her educational, work-related, and volunteer experience, she has developed a strong interest in the areas of business, marketing, tourism, and education.



**Brandon Manual**  
Economic Project  
Coordinator  
Economic  
Development  
Anishinabek  
Nation

Brandon is a member of the Mattawa / North Bay Algonquin First Nation, with roots in both Golden Lake and Bear Island. He grew up in North Bay and has a strong connection to Nipissing First Nation, having spent much of his childhood on Duchesnay Reserve.

Brandon has been with the Anishinabek Nation since 2017, and joined Economic Development Department in February 2019. He has a passion for business and hopes to help make First Nations economically prosperous.











# LANDS, RESOURCES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FORUM

FEBRUARY 16 TO 18 • 2021

**KINA-GEGO-NAABADOSIN**  
**EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED**

