

Connecting Communities, Nurturing Progress: SLAAMB's Journey of Empowerment

By Crystal Kakekaspan / Contributor

CONTENT

Career Fair Successes	Page 2
Plumbing Program Updates	Page 2
Carpentry & Infrastructure	Page 3
Hairstyling Program Update	Page 4
Harvester's Grant Program	Page 4
Line Cook Program Update	Page 5
Board Approvals for 2022/23	Page 5
FNHC Award Win	Page 6
Food Truck Update	Page 6
NAN Summit Summary	Page 6
BEDO Training Workshop	Page 7
Upcoming Board Meeting Dates	Page 7
General Information	Page 8

Greetings! We are excited to share the latest news from the Sioux Lookout Area Aboriginal Management Board (SLAAMB) with you. Our team has been working diligently to support the growth and development of Indigenous communities in the region. We continue to prioritize education and training initiatives. Through various programs,

partnerships with local organizations and stakeholders, we strive to address the unique challenges and needs of our community members. By working together, we can create positive and lasting change. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your continued support in our endeavors. Your contributions play a significant role in making a meaningful and lasting impact

Together, we can build a stronger and more prosperous future for all.

“

we provide community members with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in the modern workforce. Our goal is to equip individuals with the tools they need to secure meaningful employment and build prosperous futures. As an organization, we actively engage in community outreach and collaboration. Through

on the lives of individuals within our communities. To stay updated on our initiatives and upcoming events, we invite you to visit our website or follow us on social media. Together, we can build a stronger and more prosperous future for all. - The Sioux Lookout Area Aboriginal Management Board



Michael Etherington, Indigenous Relations Consultant presents at career fair and welcomes students to explore opportunities.

EVENT: STAFF OF SLAAMB HOST CAREER FAIR FOR LOCAL SECONDARY STUDENTS

With support from Sioux Lookout's Sioux North High School

The Sioux Lookout Area Aboriginal Management Board (SLAAMB) organized a Symposium/Career Fair event on October 13, 2022. The event aimed to introduce the youth and public to career opportunities in trades, apprenticeships, mining, forestry, energy, and service industries. The fair featured a special speaker, entertainment, booth displays, and a job fair. Over 500 high school students, along with participants from other schools and the general public, attended the event. The goals were to raise awareness about educational requirements, employment opportunities, and the importance of Grade 12 Math and English. The fair facilitated connections between attendees and employers, training centres, and educational institutions. Lunch was provided by SLAAMB Catering workers, and 21 employers and businesses showcased their booths. The keynote address by Michael Etherington and a special concert by Chelsie Young received positive feedback. The event was well-attended and well-coordinated, with participants looking forward to the next edition in October 2023.

Learning the Trade: Updates on our Plumbing Training Program

SLAAMB's 4 week intensive program welcomed 2 cohorts of participants to Thunder Bay, ON.

Through our training program, trainees gain in-depth knowledge about various aspects of the trade including: accurate measurement techniques, basic mathematics, information on standard pipe data and specifications and fitting requirement, hand tool operation, copper pipe installation, valve installation, pipe threading, insights into ABS projects, invoicing procedures, ordering materials, and project execution, as well as safety measures for ensuring a secure working environment. Additionally, given the

Plumbing Training sessions have been highly successful. In the first session, held from October 7th to November 4th, 2022, in Thunder Bay, ON, all ten trainees successfully completed the four and a half-week program, showcasing their dedication and commitment. In the second session, held from February 20th to March 17th, 2023, eight participants successfully finished the program and received their well-deserved certificates. We express our sincere gratitude to Lucas Sz wajda, U.A. Local 628 Business Agent/



importance of winterizing techniques in our Northern environment with harsh winter climates, our program emphasizes this aspect of plumbing. Trainees learn effective strategies to prevent frozen water pipes and thermal installation for extreme weather conditions. Trainees also acquire important knowledge about crawl space safety, handling mold-contaminated areas, and implementing mold prevention measures. Upon successful completion of our program, trainees are awarded a certificate of recognition. To further support their professional journey, each graduate also receives a set of tools necessary for their future plumbing work. We are proud to report that our recent

Training Director, and Instructor Dennis Richard Tymura for their invaluable contributions to the program. Their expertise and dedication have played a significant role in delivering a comprehensive curriculum tailored to the unique challenges of our Northern environment. Our training program goes beyond the technical aspects of plumbing. At SLAAMB, we remain committed to providing excellent plumbing training. We are dedicated to equipping our participants with the skills necessary for success in the industry. Focusing on both technical expertise and environmental considerations, our trainees excel to make positive impacts in their communities!



Carpentry Program: A District Wide Initiative

SLAAMB & Board of Directors commend trainees on their successful project outcomes! Congratulations!

Located in Hudson, ON, SLAAMB Carpentry Trainees work to complete our new learning centre

Training and Infrastructure Development: Updates and Achievements

We are thrilled to share some of the exciting updates and achievements from the Sioux Lookout Area Aboriginal Management Board (SLAAMB). The following is a comprehensive overview of our ongoing projects and initiatives.

Project Insight: Our project insights are developed through extensive research, statistical data tracking, and needs-based analysis of Indigenous communities in our service area. We have identified several crucial aspects including: the exceptional cost of educating our trainees, which includes travel funding, training pay, and hotel accommodations, the pressing need for safe, supportive, and affordable housing while trainees attend their training programs, and the high demand for skilled laborers, tradesmen, and carpenters in the Indigenous communities we serve.

Project Phases: We have meticulously planned and executed our projects to ensure the best outcomes for our trainees and communities. Here's a detailed breakdown of the phases:

2018: We initiated the "Construction Craft Worker Program" in collaboration with LiUNA from Local 607 of the Laborers Union in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Sixteen trainees participated in this program. **2019:** We developed the Carpentry Training and Construction Project, incorporating the Ontario Colleges General Carpenter Level 1-2-3 outline. We partnered with Seven Generations Learning Institute to provide a Canadian Carpentry Math Curriculum. **June 2019:** Sioux Lookout Town Council approved our land purchase agreement. **July 9th, 2019:** We broke ceremonial ground at 8 First Avenue Hudson/Sioux Lookout after clearing and preparing the land. **September 23rd, 2019:** Construction of Residential Unit #1 commenced with ten trainees under the guidance of lead Carpenter Bob Howden and Carpenter Ben Ingram. The Kenora Patricia School Division and

Seven Generations Learning Institute provided valuable support during this phase. **July & August 2019:** We cleared the land and initiated the form building of 8 First Avenue Hudson. **September 2020:** Carpentry instruction for Residential Unit #2 started with six trainees, following the same successful model implemented in the previous project. **December 18th, 2020:** Carpentry instruction for Residential Unit #2 was completed on site, ahead of schedule, with excellent trainee attendance and teamwork. **October 16, 2020:** Housing inspectors from IFNA and Northern Chiefs Organizations provided presentations to enhance our understanding of Carpentry and trades, permitting intermittent inspections of each building phase. **March 2021:** Both duplexes were completed, offering professional and safe living spaces for trainees. **Future Projects:** As we continue to strive for excellence, we have several ambitious projects on the horizon: A three-story Learning Centre, scheduled to begin on July 12, 2021, will provide a dedicated space for future trades training programs and serve as a training facility for other programs. A Trades Shop & Storage building, starting on July 12, 2021, will offer ample space for carpentry projects and store the necessary tools of the trades. A two-story duplex exclusively for female trainees will commence construction on August 22, 2022. **For more information and inquiries about our projects, please feel free to contact Ziggy Robert Beardy, SLAAMB Assistant Coordinator.**



Unlocking Potential: Reflections on the Hair Styling Training Program

This program took place from Monday, January 16th to Friday, March 31st, 2023. Throughout the duration of the program, trainees received comprehensive training in various areas of expertise.

The curriculum covered a wide range of essential topics, including professional ethics, bacteriology, sanitation and sterilization, hair theory, salon management, hair products, shampooing techniques, blow drying techniques, braiding, curling iron usage, up do styles, hair cutting, barbering, and hair coloring. Leading the program was our esteemed instructor, Lisa Korobanik. With a lifelong passion for hair cutting and styling, Lisa began her journey in the industry as a volunteer at a spa during her teenage years. She later pursued formal education at the Nu-Wave School of Hair Design, where she graduated in 2017. Her expertise and dedication to the craft made her an invaluable asset to our trainees.

We are delighted to announce that the program culminated in a memorable graduation ceremony at the Forest Inn Hotel on Wednesday, March 29th, 2023. As a token of appreciation for their hard work and commitment, our graduates were presented with a selection of professional hair styling tools. These tools included scissors, thinning shears, clippers, combs, brushes, blow dryers, curling irons, straightening irons, spray bottles, hair clips, barbicide, and various other items. Additionally, both SLAAMB and our instructor generously provided the graduates with special gifts to commemorate their achievements.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the graduates of the hair styling training program at SLAAMB. Their dedication and passion for the art of hair styling have set them on a path to success. We are confident that they will make a positive impact in the industry and wish them the best in their future endeavours. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us about our upcoming programs!

Revitalizing Sustainable Practices: The Harvester's Support Grant Program

We are excited to announce the Harvester's Support Grant Program, a 3-year initiative in partnership with ISC.

With the aim to strengthen community traditions by supporting Indigenous Harvesters in their traditional hunting, fishing, and harvesting activities. The HSGP targets 18 eligible First Nation communities under the Nutrition North Program, prioritizing those with the greatest needs. It focuses on increasing local harvesters, promoting community-led activities, and supporting the use of traditional foods. The program consists of three components: enhancing food sharing, expanding community hunts and

harvests, and providing training and employment opportunities. Funding for individual harvesters will be determined by the local Hunters/Trappers Committee in collaboration with Band Councils and the BEDO. Transparency measures, including a social media site, will be implemented, and a dispute mechanism will be in place. The HSGP will complement existing community programs and initiatives, fostering collaboration for greater impact.



Empowering Harvesters, Strengthening Communities, and Uplifting Traditional Practices for Sustainable Futures.

Inquire Today While Funding Is Available!

Transforming Culinary Skills: The Inspiring Journey of Alana and Lee

Discover the culinary journey of Alana Beardy and Lee Kamenawatamin, graduates turned instructors, as they share their transformative expertise in a 10-week Cooking Program.

Greetings! In this newsletter entry, we proudly highlight the exceptional accomplishments of Alana Beardy and Lee (Leon) Kamenawatamin, graduates of the comprehensive 52-week Culinary Program with an additional 10-week work placement. These talented individuals, who have amassed impressive work experience, now take on the role of instructors in the transformative 10-week Cooking Program.

Alana and Lee's culinary journey began when they enrolled in the rigorous 52-week Culinary Program in 2017. Throughout this intensive program, they honed their skills and immersed themselves in the culinary arts. As part of the program, they undertook a valuable 10-week work placement, gaining hands-on experience in real-world culinary settings. After completing their culinary education, Alana and Lee

ventured into the culinary industry, accumulating further expertise and refining their craft. Alana returned to her home reserve in Bearskin Lake, where she worked at the well known Chester Fried restaurant, creating meal for her community despite limited resources. Lee, on the other hand, embarked on a journey through various culinary establishments, and returned to SLAAMB for 3 summers managing our very own food truck, showcasing her commitment as an individual contributor.

Overall, these experiences broadened their horizons, allowing them to specialize in different culinary techniques. Now, drawing upon their extensive work experience, Alana and Lee have embraced the role of instructors in the 10-week Line Cook Program. This program invited trainees from our remote communities, eager to enhance their culinary skills and embark on their own culinary journeys.



As instructors, Alana and Lee have demonstrated unparalleled dedication and passion. Alana and Lee assessed and refined the trainees knife skills, emphasizing precision and safety. They taught proper knife techniques, guiding students through creating dishes from scratch with the mentorship that instilled an appreciation for the culinary arts. The students study kitchen math, recipe chapters, and

underwent weekly tests. Alana and Lee also nurture professionalism, encouraging certifications such as In Good Hands and CPR for a secure culinary environment. Alana Beardy and Lee Kamenawatamin embody the spirit of culinary excellence and the transformative power of education. We celebrate the achievements of Alana, Lee, and all the students who have successfully completed the program under their guidance. We wish you all continued success! Bon appétit!

SLAAMB Board Approvals

In the fiscal year 2022/23 SLAAMB approved 152 training/employment proposals.

- 47 Community Initiatives - CRF
- 16 Community Initiatives – EI Part 2
- 23 Youth Funds
- 36 Individual Initiatives – CRF
- 12 Individual Initiatives – EI Part 2
- 3 Disability Initiatives
- 5 District-Wide Initiatives
- 7 Community Initiatives
- 3 Child Care

Jim Robinson, SLAAMB's Chair & Nishnawbe-Gamik Friendship Centre representative.

Dennis Kakegamic, SLAAMB's Co-Chair & Sandy Lake First Nation, Mishkeegogamang First Nation, Ojibway Nation of Saugeen, Eagle Lake First Nation, and Wabigoon Lake First Nation representative.

Gordon Morris, Shibogama First Nations Council representative.

Albert James, Keewatinook Okimakanak (KO) representative.

Eno Chapman, Independent First Nation Alliance (IFNA) representative.

Rodney McKay, Windigo First Nations Council Chiefs representatives.

Dora Beardy, Equay-Wuk Women's Group representative.

Mark Kakegamic, Wawatay Native Communications Society, Tikinagan Child and Family Services & Northern Nishnawbe Education Council representative.

Elsie Gray, SLAAMB's board Elder.



Award Win at the 2022 First Nations Housing Conference!

We are thrilled to announce that the Sioux Lookout Area Aboriginal Management Board (SLAAMB) received a prestigious award at the 2022 First Nation Housing Conference in recognition of SLAAMB's outstanding training programs and projects in Hudson, ON. Sioux Lookout Area Aboriginal Management Board (SLAAMB) was honoured with a prestigious award at the 2022 First Nation Housing Conference in Hudson, ON. The ceremony, held on October 26 at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay, celebrated SLAAMB's exceptional training programs and projects. Their Carpentry Apprenticeship Training Program has successfully constructed two duplexes and is currently working on a Learning Centre, Garage, and Warehouse/Workshop. They also have plans to develop a residential unit specifically for female trainees. This recognition is dedicated to the trainers, trainees, SLAAMB Staff, Board, Keewaytinseh Future Training Corporation, and local contractors who played integral roles. The First Nations Housing Conference is a prominent gathering of community leaders and housing professionals from across Canada. Congratulations to SLAAMB for their remarkable achievement!



Revamped and Ready: New Food Truck is Now Open



Last August, we said our goodbyes to our beloved food truck that had been serving as a valuable resource for SLAAMB's culinary arts students since its purchase in 2017. However, we are thrilled to share that we have now acquired a new truck on our lot and are excited to announce it is now open to customers. Thanks to our seasonal operations, we have become a popular lunch destination for locals. Don't miss the opportunity to visit us today!

Open Mon-Fri 830am-430pm.

SLAAMB Presents at the 2022 NAN Housing Summit: Insights

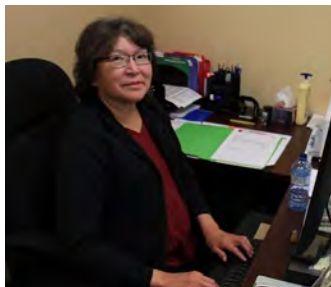
SLAAMB had the honour of being invited to the NAN Housing Summit, which took place on November 15-16, 2022 at the Best Western Nor'Western Hotel in Thunder Bay.

The summit serving as the platform for the formal launch of the NAN Housing Strategy, showcased a comprehensive plan consisting of seven stages. These stages encompassed various vital aspects, such as advocating for inclusive housing systems, addressing the health impacts of housing, emphasizing appropriate and sustainable design and materials, integrated infrastructure planning, improving funding structures, governance and policy reform, and capacity development and training. During the event, several engaging discussions and panel sessions were held on a range of topics including: exploring the Rapid Housing Initiative (RH1) by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, delving into tendering procurement and project management, providing updates on health transformation efforts, promoting integrated approaches to governance and community planning, examining current and future housing trends in NAN First Nations, and presenting SLAAMB's own successful Carpentry Apprenticeship Training Program in Hudson, ON. In our presentation, we highlighted the recent training sessions emphasizing the importance of SLAAMB's trades training initiatives for our First Nations people in the northern region, acknowledging the scarcity of certified tradespeople available. We received recommendations and addressed questions from the attendees of the summit, focusing on areas such as furnace and wood stove safety maintenance. We recognized the significance of this training as fire rescue services are not readily accessible in our communities up north. Overall, SLAAMB's participation in the NAN Housing Summit provided a valuable opportunity to showcase our commitment to empowering First Nations individuals through trades training and address critical housing issues. We are grateful for the platform to share our successes, exchange ideas, and collaborate with fellow attendees in our collective pursuit of enhancing housing conditions in the NAN region.

Building Economic Capacity: Highlights of the 2022 BEDO Training Workshop in Sioux Lookout.

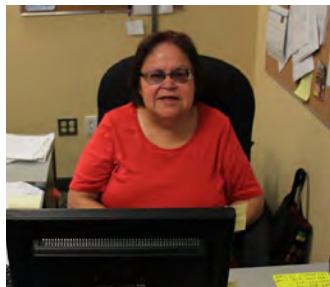
A successful BEDO Training Workshop in Sioux Lookout, ON brought together First Nations communities to exchange ideas, explore funding options for growth, and foster collaboration for sustainable development in their communities.

In this section we share a summary of the recent Band Economic Development Officers (BEDO) Training Workshop held on September 7 & 8, 2022 in Sioux Lookout, Ontario. The workshop brought together Economic Development Officers from 25 First Nations that SLAAMB serves. The event was a resounding success, fostering connections and knowledge sharing among BEDOs. SLAAMB covered travel, accommodation, meals, and meeting room expenses. During the workshop, BEDOs networked, exchanged ideas, and discussed programs in their communities. They learned about successful initiatives, explored new ideas, and emphasized the importance of timely finance reports to SLAAMB. The presentations included guest speakers who discussed funding options, available programs, and resources for First Nations communities. Topics covered included the new 10-year ISETS Program, budget allocations, wage subsidies, and finance management. The first day featured introductions from SLAAMB Board members, presentations by SLAAMB staff, and a talk by Summaiya Razakazi from Service Canada. The second day included presentations on the Harvester's Support Grant Program, the Northern Food Subsidy Program, and other topics by esteemed speakers. A total of 22 BEDOs from northern communities and a delegation from KKETS in Thunder Bay participated, along with SLAAMB staff and Board Members. Positive feedback highlighted the value of the workshop and the networking opportunities it provided. We extend our gratitude to everyone involved in making this workshop a success. Stay tuned for more updates from SLAAMB!



Assists with finance, HRDC, sponsor inquiries, reconciliations, contracts.
Email: jchapman@slaamb.on.ca

**Jemima Chapman,
Finance Clerk**



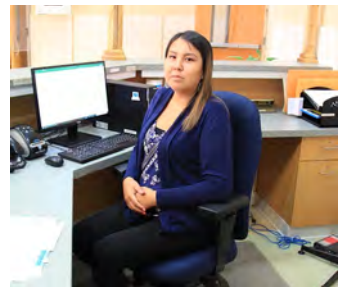
Assist with financial tasks and clerical duties in finance department.
Email: joannek@slaamb.on.ca

**Joanne Keewaycabo,
Assistant Finance Clerk**



Manages administrative tasks, communications, and record keeping.
Email: jmathews@slaamb.on.ca

**Jennifer Mathews,
Secretary**

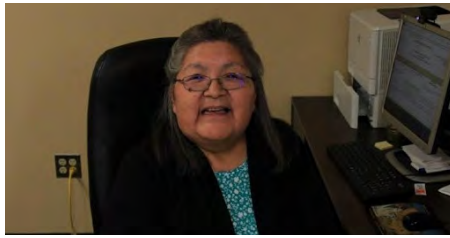


Greet clients and visitors, answer calls, and provides admin support.
Email: reception@slaamb.on.ca

**Jeneva Anderson,
Receptionist**

SLAAMB MEETINGS TENTATIVE DATES FOR 2023-2024

Date:	Time:	Meeting Type:	Location:
January 18, 2023	9:00 AM	SLAAMB Board Meeting	80 Front Street Sioux Lookout
March 28, 2023	9:00 AM	SLAAMB Board Meeting	80 Front Street Sioux Lookout
April 25, 2023	9:00 AM	SLAAMB Board Meeting	80 Front Street Sioux Lookout
June 27, 2023	9:00 AM	SLAAMB Board Meeting	80 Front Street Sioux Lookout
July 18, 2023	9:00 AM	SLAAMB Board Meeting	Valhalla Inn Thunder Bay
July 19, 2023	9:00 AM	Annual General Meeting	Valhalla Inn Thunder Bay
October 24, 2023	9:00 AM	SLAAMB Board Meeting	80 Front Street Sioux Lookout
December 5, 2023	9:00 AM	SLAAMB Board Meeting	Hilton Hotel Winnipeg
December 6 & 7, 2023	9:00 AM	SLAAMB Capacity Building	Hilton Hotel Winnipeg
March 21, 2024	9:00 AM	SLAAMB Board Meeting	80 Front Street Sioux Lookout



Oversees communications and the day-to-day operation of the SLAAMB.
Email: mtait@slaamb.on.ca

Mary Tait,
Executive Director



Handles Individual Initiatives program and assists with the day-to-day operations.
Email: zbeady@slaamb.on.ca

Ziggy Beardy,
Assistant Executive Director



Coordinates training initiatives and skills development for SLAAMB members.
Email: jbeardy@slaamb.on.ca

Jim Beardy,
Project Officer



Monitor and manages SLAAMB's financial operations and fiscal responsibilities.
Email: gkakekaspan@slaamb.on.ca

Genny Kakekaspan,
Finance Officer

Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program

ISETP funds are delivered by SLAAMB through the following labour market programs and work plans: Community initiatives, district – wide initiatives, disability program, individual initiatives, youth initiatives, and child care program.

Want to learn more? Contact our Sioux Lookout office or email us at slaamb@reception.ca to inquire.

Already have a project in mind? Submit a training proposal to SLAAMB's main office one (1) week prior to a scheduled Board Meeting for assessment.

All proposals submitted must include the following:

- 1.. A completed application form with a cost breakdown,
2. A completed training and/or work plan,
3. Trainer(s) identified with statement of qualifications,
4. Letters of support or Band Council Resolution,
5. Any cost sharing agreements,
6. A employment equity plan.

MEETING ROOM RENTALS:

Looking for a venue for your next meeting or event? Check out our offers!

Rental rate and fees:

- \$ 175.00/day or \$35.00/hour Boardroom (max. 18 people)
- \$350.00/day Computer room with 12 computers (max. 14 people)
- \$200.00/day Small Classroom (max. 25 people)
- \$375.00/day Full Classroom {max. 35 people}

Booking Information Required:

1. Date: which day is room being used
2. Time: start and end
3. Name of person making the booking
4. Organization
5. Contact info: phone number or email address
6. Number of people in your group
7. Room requested



Private Parking | Wheelchair accessible | Lunchroom use included
Inquire for additional equipment



Sioux Lookout Area Aboriginal Management Board P.O. Box 56, 80 Front Street, Sioux Lookout, Ontario, P8T 1A1.

Telephone: (807) 737-4047
Fax: (807) 737-4048
Toll Free: 1-800-563-2183
General Email: reception@slaamb.on.ca