

Achimowin

2020 – #3
ISSUE 14

Reforesting the Site

Early this summer, Keeyask continued its efforts to return areas disturbed by construction back into forest by planting trees. This took place from June 24th to July 4th and involved Iron North, Manitoba Hydro's Environmental Licensing and

Protection Department, and Keeyask's Earthworks team.

"Planting new trees in areas that were disturbed from construction was a success because of the hard work the tree planters put in," said Kaela-Mae Rose (Manitoba Hydro Environmental Coordinator).

104,400 trees were planted over approximately 38 hectares, with Jack Pine planted in the dry, sandy sites and Black Spruce planted in the wet sites.

Kaela-Mae said, "It's not easy planting that many trees, but the team had a great attitude and we were able to complete our task on time"



KEYYASK PROGRESS UPDATE



The first half of 2020 was a challenging time; the COVID-19 pandemic affected the project as a whole, including everyone involved.

“The entire Keeyask team pulled together under challenging circumstances and made significant personal sacrifices to continue the build,” said Barry Nazar (Construction Manager, Manitoba Hydro).

Since the beginning of the year key project milestones have been achieved, including:

- The first rotor – the single heaviest piece of equipment installed in each unit – was placed in Unit 1 in January.
- Water-up (the returning of areas that were dewatered for construction to surrounding water levels) was completed in April.
- The first unit was handed over to Manitoba Hydro in April, allowing a start to testing before it is put into service.
- Impoundment, the process of raising the water level upstream to create the reservoir, after the ‘bird timing window’ in late August.

The project remains on track to bring the first unit online in October. “I’d like to thank everyone for sticking with us and continuing to put their best effort forward each and every day,” said Barry.



Opportunities After Keeyask for KCN Community Members

“We can help you” said Cheryl Moose, the Tataskweyak Cree Nation Recruitment Coordinator, “to find your next position, prepare for work in a new area, or return to school”.

Cheryl is part of the Employment working group. The group works with Manitoba Hydro to help KCN members prepare for careers at Hydro and to provide training and employment services for other careers, as well.

In addition to training and employment preparation, the group sponsors community members to attend post-secondary school in disciplines in-demand in Manitoba.

“If you want to return to school to expand your opportunities, we fund students starting programs throughout the year” said Cheryl, “we are looking for applicants now for the upcoming school year.”



LOOKING FOR EMPLOYMENT AFTER KEEYASK? CONNECT WITH US

FLCN: 204-652-5423

TCN: 204-679-1814

War Lake: 204-288-4315

YFFN: tlbeardy@gmail.com

Gary Garson, TCN Operational Jobs Training Coordinator presenting an award for academic achievement to graduate Karleen Anderson-Keeper at Chief Sam Cook Mahmuwee Education Centre, June 2020.



Employment working group members (L-R): Julie DesLauriers (Hydro), Lena Mayham (TCN), Pamela Beardy (Fox Lake), Cheryl Moose (TCN), Vanessa Beardy (Fox Lake). [Missing] Theresa Beardy (York Factory), Raymond Spence (War Lake) and Gary Garson (TCN).

DON'T LET DOWN YOUR GUARD

Easing of some COVID-19 restrictions doesn't mean that COVID-19 can be forgotten. There are still a lot of unknowns and uncertainties with regards to what our future will be like.

It is important that everyone does their part. Stay focused and practice the pandemic measures that are in place. Don't let down your guard – continue to protect yourself, and others, by not relaxing back into old habits from before COVID-19.

Also look after your mental health. Your situation and concerns may result in a lot of undue stress. Knowing that there are resources available to assist you is important. Keeyask's professional counsellors are one of the resources available to you – look for their blue/green posters in the Arctic Corridor.



LOOKING AFTER EACH OTHER, TOGETHER

WACIYE – WELCOME, ALL OUR RELATIONS

We are in this together – helping, assisting, and listening to each other when we have questions, concerns, and worries.

Employee Retention & Support Services (ERS) is always available through a visit, a text, an e-mail, or a phone call – ready, willing, and available to assist you with any concerns, issues, and situations that arise. We are available 24/7 and an ERS employee is on-call from 9 p.m. until 9 a.m.

We are walking with you during this current situation. We invite you to share your experiences and the changes that are happening with you, your family, and your community.

ERS has programs and services in place for maintaining your spiritual well-being, mental clarity, emotional stability, and physical health.

– ERS staff

FOR VIDEOS AND MORE
INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:

Keeyask.com

Send your feedback and suggestions to:

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