

WASWANAPI DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION NEWSLETTER



WDC News

Asinii News

Mishtuk News



**WASWANAPI DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
NEWSLETTER – JUNE – 4TH EDITION**



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Message from the President



Wachiya,

As we reflect on the 2025–2026 year, I would like to take a moment, on behalf of the Waswanipi Development Corporation, to express my sincere gratitude to all of our employees and our Board of Directors for their dedication, hard work, and commitment throughout the year.

Your efforts have been instrumental in driving our organization forward. From supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs to advancing key projects and partnerships, this past year has been one of growth, resilience, and progress. Each of you has played an important role in strengthening our economic foundation and creating opportunities for the community.

We also extend our appreciation to the Chief & Council for their continued support and collaboration. Their guidance, encouragement, and commitment to our shared vision have been vital in helping us move forward with confidence. Their support reinforces our ability to pursue meaningful economic development that benefits the community of Waswanipi.

I would further like to acknowledge the leadership of our Board members, whose vision and governance continue to shape the direction of our corporation. Your commitment ensures that we remain focused on sustainable development and long-term success for all our stakeholders.

As we look ahead, we enter a new year filled with exciting opportunities. We are well-positioned to build on the momentum we have created, expand our initiatives, and continue fostering economic development that strengthens the community.

Thank you once again to our entire team for your continued dedication. I look forward to what we will accomplish together in the coming year.

Marcel Happyjack

President

Waswanipi Development Corporation



Message from the CEO

Wachiya,

As we reflect on this year's Goose Break, I would like to take a moment, on behalf of the Waswanipi Development Corporation, to extend my warmest wishes to all families who spent time on the land. This is a special time for our community—a time to reconnect with our traditions, our culture, and one another. We hope you enjoyed your Goose Break and that it brought you safety, success, and meaningful moments with your loved ones.

Over the past year, we have continued to make steady progress in strengthening our local economy and supporting Cree entrepreneurship. From developing new business opportunities to supporting local initiatives in hospitality, forestry, and services, our focus remains on creating sustainable growth that benefits the community as a whole. We are proud of the partnerships we have built and the resilience shown by our local businesses and workforce.

As we reflect on the past year, we recognize that our achievements are rooted in the strength, knowledge, and determination of our team with great integrity. We remain committed to building on this momentum and creating more opportunities for future generations.

We look forward to continuing this journey together in the year ahead.

Tony Gull

Chief Executive Officer

Waswanipi Development Corporation

Director of Mining Services – Remarks



Wachiya,

Asinii Corporation is pleased to share that we have successfully registered the company with the Cree Business Registry, marking an important milestone in strengthening our position within the region. Building on this progress, our next objective is to onboard and register our partner companies as we continue renewing and updating many of the terms from agreements that were previously handed down to us. This work is focused on ensuring that our partnerships are structured in a way that maximizes long-term value—not only for WDC, but also for the broader Cree First Nation of Waswanipi and its members.

In addition, we have made strong progress on our internal operations with the completion of several key HR policies, helping to establish a solid foundation for consistent and effective workforce management. We are also excited to welcome two new HR Coordinators to the Asinii team: Allan Oblin and Clarence Happyjack. Their addition strengthens our internal capacity as we continue to grow and formalize our operations, and we wish them both the very best in their new roles.

We wish you all a safe upcoming goose breaks!

Sincerely,

Jarris Gull

Director of Mining Services
Asinii Corporation



We are excited to share that construction of our new hotel has officially begun. This marks an important milestone for Waswanipi Development Corporation and for our community, as we continue to invest in infrastructure that supports growth, tourism, and local opportunity. We are proud to announce that the hotel is on track to welcome its first guests in Spring 2027.

here are a few pictures of the new hotel



Hotel Naming & Logo Contest

WDC recently hosted a Hotel Naming & Logo Contest to engage the community and provide an opportunity for members to share their ideas for the upcoming hotel project. Community submissions received through the contest will be presented to the Board of Directors on April 21, as part of the review and decision-making process.



GRAND OPENING OF COMMERCIAL BUILDING



The Waswanipi Development Corporation's Grand Opening celebrated the official launch of the new building, Maamuu Apatisiwin Kamuuk. The event began with a warm welcome and opening prayer, followed by inspiring remarks from President Marcel Happyjack, Chief Irene Neeposh, and CEO Tony Gull, who spoke about the importance and future impact of the project.

A key highlight was the formal ribbon-cutting ceremony, marking the building's official opening with applause and celebration. This was followed by the unveiling of the building's name, Maamuu Apatisiwin Kamuuk, along with an explanation of its meaning and significance, and a photo opportunity with dignitaries.

Guests then enjoyed refreshments and had the opportunity to participate in a guided tour of the facility, exploring key spaces and learning about the services and tenants within the building.

The celebration concluded with closing remarks, expressions of gratitude to partners and attendees, and the distribution of commemorative items, leaving a strong sense of pride and community around this important milestone.

Supporting Entrepreneurs

Restaurant - Carole Kitchen

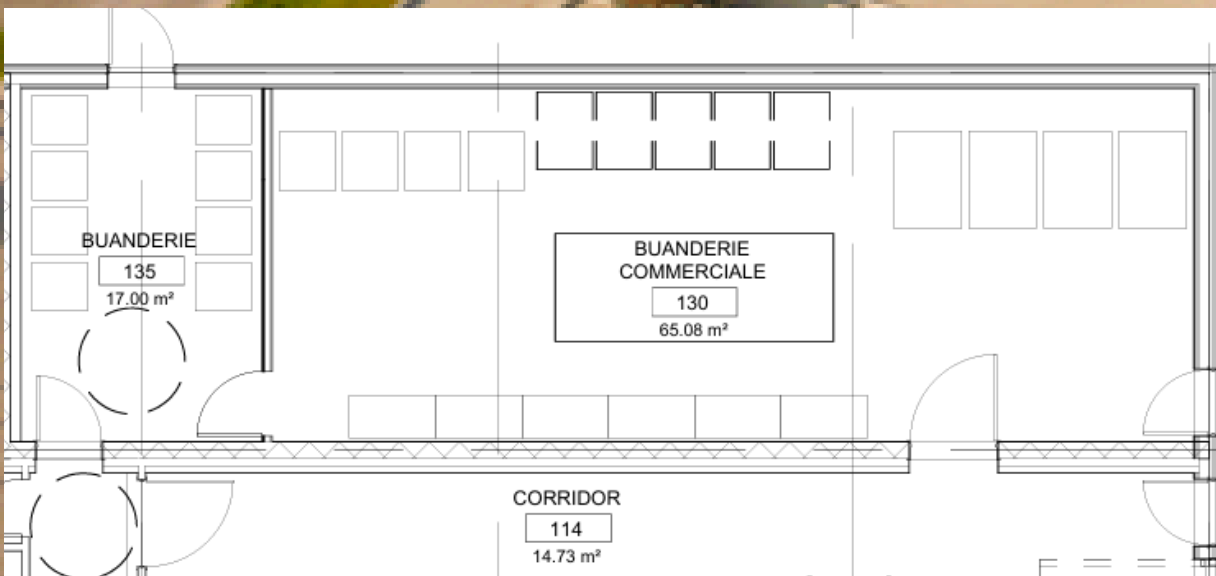
Waswanipi Development Corporation continues to support local economic growth by helping a community entrepreneur launch a new restaurant within the hotel in Waswanipi.

Through guidance, resources, and business support, the corporation played a key role in turning the entrepreneur's vision into reality, creating new job opportunities and enhancing local services for residents and visitors alike.



Laundromat - Elaine Saganash

The Waswanipi Development Corporation continues to foster local entrepreneurship by supporting a community member in launching a laundromat within the hotel in Waswanipi. From the early stages, WDC provided hands-on assistance with developing specs & plans identifying startup costs. They also offered guidance ensuring the entrepreneur was well-prepared to succeed.



1st WDC Expo

The 1st WDC Expo, held on August 21, 2025, was a major success and a proud milestone as WDC's very first expo. With an expected turnout of 150 participants, the event exceeded expectations by welcoming over 200 attendees.

The expo featured special remarks from Chief Irene and concluded with a lively community BBQ served by WDC subsidiary Cree Horizon. For a first-ever expo, the strong turnout and positive energy made it an outstanding and memorable event for everyone involved.



2nd WDC Expo

The 2nd WDC Expo marked a significant step forward, with attendance far exceeding expectations. While the event anticipated 200 participants, a total of 378 people attended, representing a 152% increase in participation.

The expo featured exciting highlights, including a grand prize draw for a 2026 Ski-Doo Skandic, engagement from over 36 youth participants, and the distribution of 150 free bingo sets. The continued growth and strong community turnout demonstrated the growing impact and success of the WDC Expo.



NEWS FROM MISHTUK CORPORATION





Christmas Tree Lighting

On December 1st, Mishtuk corporation took part in the **22nd Annual Christmas Tree lighting**, bringing community members together for an evening of celebration to mark the start of the holiday season. As part of the event, attendees had the chance to take part in door prizes giveaways, adding to the festive atmosphere of giving.

Giveaway prizes included family experience, such as a hotel stay in Val-d'Or and attraction tickets, offering participants a chance to enjoy time together beyond the event itself. Mishtuk was pleased to support a gathering that focused on community connection, family, and holiday spirit



Tourtiere Pie Giveaways

As part of the annual holiday tradition, Mishtuk and along with the help from the U12 and U14 broomball team helped deliver 450 Tourtiere pies to households throughout the community. With their support and commitment, Mishtuk was pleased to sponsor the team for their upcoming tournaments as a thank you for their effort and dedication into making this giveaway happen.

The pies were generously sponsored by Mishtuk, Asinii, and WEC, making it possible to share this holiday initiative with community members. This collaboration highlighted the importance of youth involvement, partnership, and giving back during the holiday season.





Mishtuk Annual BBQ

Mishtuk Corporation hosted its **18th Annual BBQ**, welcoming community members for an afternoon of food and connection. In the event we saw a strong participation, with Mishtuk & WDC Staff serving approximately 400 steaks, 300 hamburgers, and 250 hotdogs.

The BBQ continues to be an important opportunity for Mishtuk and WDC to bring people together, support community gatherings, and celebrate the summer season through shared experiences and hospitality.



Mishtuk Fishing Derby

The Mishtuk Family Fishing Derby brought families and community members together for a successful weekend on the water. Participants competed across multiple categories, making the event both inclusive and engaging for all ages.

Mishtuk & WDC would like to congratulate the First-place winners:

- Men's Category: Owen Gull-Cooper, awarded \$3,000.00
- Women's Category: Daisy H. Langdon, awarded \$3,000.00

The derby continues to be an important annual event that promotes family participation, outdoor activities, and community connection.

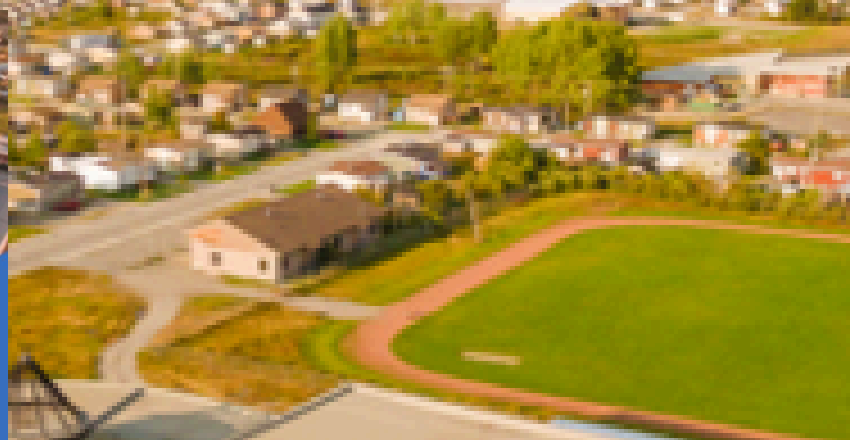




WDC hosted its recent Expo Information Session to share updates, resources, and opportunities with community members, businesses, and partners. Based on strong participation and positive feedback, WDC plans to host two expos each year moving forward.

The next WDC Expo is scheduled for August 2026, continuing WDC's commitment to keeping the community informed and engaged around economic development initiatives and opportunities.

More Information to follow in the upcoming months.




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**WDC EXPO
INFORMATION
SESSION**
**NEXT EXPO
COMING
AUGUST
2026**

A Note from the WDC Team

This marks the 4th edition of the WDC Newsletter, and we would like to thank our community, partners, and readers for their continued interest and engagement.

As Goose Break approaches, we wish everyone a safe and enjoyable time on the land. We look forward to continuing to share updates, opportunities, and community highlights with you, and we will be back with our next edition in August.

Thank you for staying connected.

— The WDC Team

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