

OTIPACIMO

Storyteller

Gracey Kakekayash, North Caribou Lake First Nation



Community Sunlight

Gracey has been the Aboriginal Diabetes Initative Worker in North Caribou Lake for 10 years.

Read Story on page 4

Annual General Meeting
9

Back to School Q&A

14

National Truth & Reconciliation

Day

13

SLFNHA Photo Contest
Summer Winners

8

Message From MONICA HEMEON CAO



It is a great honour to present SLFNHA's fall edition of Otipacimo, which means storyteller.

SLFNHA recently held its annual AGM in early September. It was nice to finally meet in-person for the first time in 2 years. We were able discuss topics that have been on everyone's minds as we move into living well with COVID. Most importantly, I got to hear concerns from the communities directly. I heard these concerns loud and clear and will be sending out an update to address all the issues brought forward regarding the departments under me. Those include HR, IT, Communications, Medical Transportation and benefits, Patient Navigation and the Hostels in Sioux Lookout. The AGM was an opportunity to begin building strategies and we are working towards the best possible service for the 33 First Nations we serve.

As we move into the fall season, I want to acknowledge that this is a season of harvest for our communities. I wish all the success and safety for those going out on the land to provide food and resources for their families and communities. I am grateful to the communities for their resilience and inspiration in each season.

I am excited to share our newsletter, Otipacimo, that highlights some the challenges and celebrates the successes of our staff and departments. Enjoy.

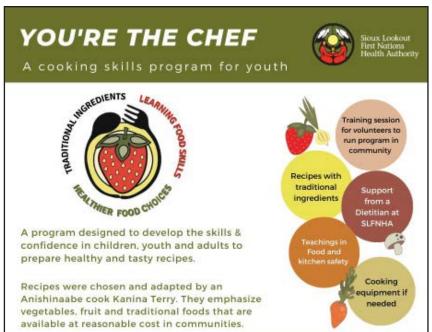
Miigwetch!

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Contact us | acwinfo@slfnha.com | (866) 337-0081

My COVID-19 vaccines are up to date.

I will wear a mask, and keep my distance.

I will keep my hands and work space clean.

Plan ahead, stop the spread.

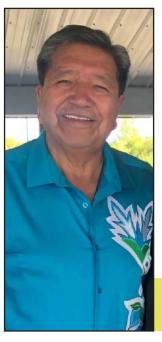




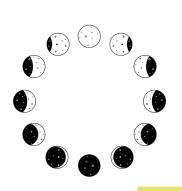
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Community Sunlight Gracey Kakekayash, North Caribou Lake First Nation	04	Fall Moons Lyn-Marie Manitowabi	10
Health & Hunting Angie Morris, ACW	05	Love Your Language Anna-Marie Kakegamic	11
You're the Chef Wild Rice Berry Salad	06	Translation through COVID Wally McKay	12
Patient Navigation Choose Your Own Hotel!	07	Day of Truth and Reconciliation	13
SLFNHA Photo Contest Summer Winners	08	Back to School Q&A Sara Sakamoto, School Counsellor at Nodin	14
SLFNHA Annual General Meeting	09	Job Openings at SLFNHA	15

4 | OTIPACIMO

Community Sunlight: Gracey Kakekayash, North Caribou Lake First Nation

Written by: Kelly McIntosh, Approaches to Community Wellbeing

Gracey Kakekayash is a member of North Caribou Lake First Nation and has been the Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (ADI) Worker for ten years. She is an energetic, motivated, and hard-working person who cares deeply for her family and community. With respect to her background, she has received training on radiology and worked as a Basic Radiology Worker since 2003.

Although her current position is as an ADI worker, Gracey works as part of a dedicated team of community workers at the Nursing Station. When required, she will act as Community Health Representative, Basic Radiology Worker and also act as an interpreter for the physician or other visiting health care people.

As a self-starter, she seeks new opportunities for her community and for the health of Elders, adults and youth. She is very interested in establishing a community garden. This is a goal of hers and she plans to partner with other disciplines and find ways to make gardening a skill for more people to enjoy. With respect to traditional food, she has offered lessons on Facebook to teach ways of gathering and cooking handed down by her parents and grandparents. She is also part of the annual fall feast, and her family prepares for the community traditional foods harvested from the land. This magical event is an open invitation for all to enjoy traditional food and is a celebration that community members and visitors love. Beyond community work, Gracey spends time individually with people in the community with diabetes. She visits with them and offers meaningful support to help them on their health journey.

While balancing diabetes and community work, Gracey is continuously focused on supporting the health of Prioritizing the wellbeing of family and her parents. community members is a core part of community living and Gracey's contributions are a way the importance of this will be passed on to future generations.



Above: Gracey Kakekayash

Below: Arial view of North Caribou Lake First Nation



Health and Hunting Angie Morris, Approaches to Community Wellbeing

thing is different for us in northern First Nation communities. and a good hunting knife. Luckily, some communities have There is excitement and thrill of the fall harvest in the air!

their own specialty hunters and harvesters. They know the the individual and their family. land and know how to keep safe while hunting. Elders provide guidance by sharing stories of landscape, water ways. The good thing about being a hunter and provider at heart and weather predictions just by examining nature. Knowing the temperatures can help you prepare what gear to pack and hunt, nor does it deter you from wanting to cook a good tradiwhat type of clothing to wear. Warm and dry clothing is vital tional meal for your family. There is a sense of pride in sharto survival while you're out hunting. Wearing life jackets and ing and being able to feed your loved ones. I hope that you the bright hunter orange is important too so that other hunters are able to refill your Native soul this fall by sitting around a can see you and not mistake you for a moose. Don't worry, moose can't see colour so they can't see the bright hunter don't forget to thank your local hunter and teepee cook! orange safety vest or hat if you wear one. Technology also provides safety by giving us the internet to look up weather Miigwetch! for the upcoming days and satellite communicators in case of emergencies.

Growing up in my home community of Muskrat Dam, we remained active in harvesting practices like fishing, hunting moose and harvesting medicines. 46 years ago the elders and leadership decided to start up an annual hunting festival. The teams would go out and compete against each other for most points accumulated during a 24-hour hunt. They started that up to keep hunting and harvesting traditions alive in the community and in its young people. It wasn't just the act of hunting, it was the preparation of the wild game and the tradition of how to cook wild game that was passed down. Any game that was harvested, elders would show us how to pluck waterfowl, butcher moose and different ways to cook it over an open fire. There would be bannock making contests and duck plucking contests. Our parents and elders made it fun to learn those traditional skills which helped me retain that traditional knowledge. I am also proud to say that I won a few duck plucking contests, eeeee!

The community hunters continue to harvest moose and waterfowl throughout the year. The practice in my community is if a hunter gets a moose or a goose, they share it with as many people as possible. I also do this whilst living as an Urban Indian in Sioux Lookout. If I don't have enough to share, then I will share what I have by hosting a teepee party and cook a big pot of goose soup or a huge pan of moose stew with a side of bannock. There is something soothing about gathering around a teepee fire, making a pot of outdoor tea and cooking for your loved ones.

Having a freezer full of traditional food provides a sense of food security for those that can fill their freezer. Not everyone can afford to hunt in our communities due to the costs

Cooler nights and leaves turning yellow translate into some- of owning a boat and motor, purchasing gas, shells, a gun access to community programming and funding for a box of shells or 5 gallons of gas to help them practice their way of Each community has their own way of harvesting milchim and traditional harvesting. However, the cost mostly falls upon

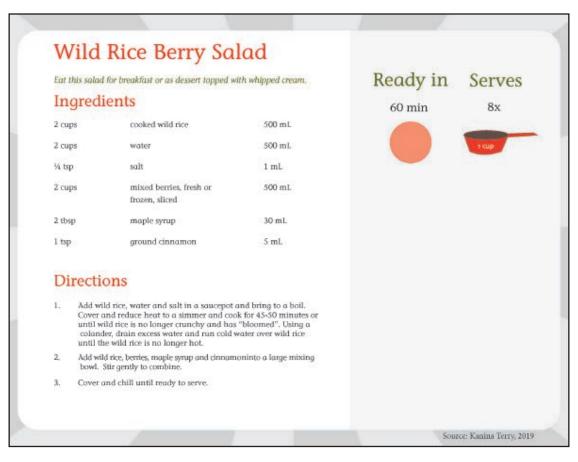
> is that the costs don't deter you from getting excited for the teepee fire and enjoying a bowl of moose or goose soup and

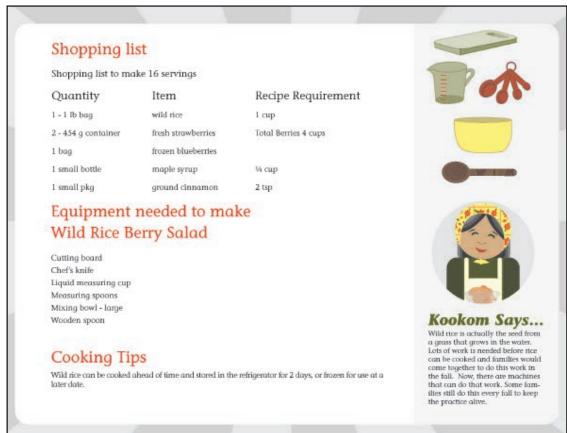




You're the Chef! Wild Rice Berry Salad

bi-izhaa wiisini (come to eat!). We have a school cooking program for kids called You're the Chef that we want to share! Check out SLFNHA's Youtube Channel for the full video on how to make this delicious salad.





CHOOSE YOUR OWN HOTEL!

ATTENDING MEDICAL
APPOINTMENTS IN WINNIPEG
HAVE THE OPTION OF
SELECTING THEIR PREFERRED
ACCOMMODATION

- 1. Upon arrival in Winnipeg call the Transportation Referral Unit 1-877-983-0911
 - 2. Request accommodation at a pre-selected hotel

(The Patient Navigator Program has provided a list of hotels)

Select three in case your first choice is full

This process will help the Transportation Referral Unit process your accommodations

process your accommod

Contact:

Patient Navigator Program navigator@slfnha.com



SLFNHA Photo Contest

A prize for every season

SLFNHA is holding a photo contest throughout 2022, and we're looking to you for your pictures!

SLFNHA needs photos of you and your community to better represent the people 1. On the Land we serve on our website, social media and our publications. Enter for all 5 categories to 3. receive a \$25 Visa Gift Card! Every submission 4. is entered into the Grand Prize of an iPad!

We are having 4 different rounds of contests, For one for every season:

Spring / Ziigwan -> June 21, 2022

- Summer / Niibin -> September 21, 2022
- Fall / Dagwaagin -> December 21, 2022
- Winter / Biboon -> March 21, 2023

Categories:

- My Community
- Family
- Miichim / Meal Time
- **Healthy Living**

more information SLFNHA Photo Contest, please email the SLFNHA Communications Department at communications@slfnha.com

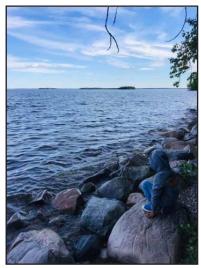
Enter Online!

For full contest rules and to enter visit:

www.slfnha.com

Summer Contest Winners!

Congratulations to each of the Summer Photo Contest winners! We got so many great photos from around the region and are very grateful for every photo that came in. Milgwetch to everyone that submitted.



On The Land: Roseanna McKay - Big Trout Lake



Michim/Meal Time: Victoria Kaminawash, Sachigo Lake



Grand Prize Winner: Shonee Kakagamic, Sioux Lookout



My Community: Jolene Keesic, Hudson

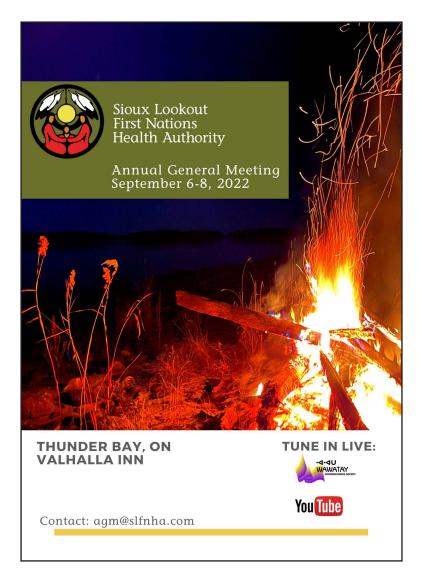


Healthy Living: Chelsey Greig, Sioux Lookout



Family: Vanessa Abela, Sioux Lookout

SLFNHA AGM



Miigwetch to the delegates, Chiefs, Elders, and the Board of Directors for participating in this year's Annual General Meeting, held at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay.

To view the documents presented at this year's AGM, please visit slfnha.com/AGM.









Fall Moons Lyn-Marie Manitowabi



by sitting with the sun, moon, and stars. wards darkness. The foundation of living a good life is know who we are in relationship with life. Relationships with the with land are nur-

stories of creation, part of the story dewe learn to be human.

Metaphors are used to describe a way the Thanksgiving of Earth's bounty. of speaking to stories and relationships. Stories are poetry and science together. According to one of the many medicine is, in relation to how it revolves around top, back and forth.

turn to seed, the leaves dry and change. Autumn activates all senses; sight, smell, hearing, taste, and touch, these senses ing, hope and belonging. are messengers for our spirit to connect to our physical body. We are reminded Seasons are teachers.

Last issue, I introduced myself, as a to maintain healthy relationships with self, visitor to Lac Seul traditional territory in others, and life. Fall is a time of harvest, Treaty 3. I would like to emphasize how is storing, preparing for shift in temperature. important it is to ask knowledge keepers All of nature responds. Seasonal teachfrom the place where you live, the stories ings offer balance with the awakening about culture according to your commu- Spring leading to Summer light then once nity. Start with developing a relationship the Fall equinox passes, Earth moves to-

tured through hunting, trapping, scout-Earth is home to all life, seen and un- ing the dens, observing the animals as seen. Everything, everyone, intertwines, teachers. Before reservations the people impacts the other. Jim Dumont shares followed game and prepared for the winter homes. How do you practice fall trascribes how the original human was low- ditions? On Manitoulin Island the leaves ered with their toes pointed towards the turn magnificent shades of red, orange, ground, they touched it so very softly, yellow and brown. My grandparents had carefully, kindly. Anishinabe watched, lis- apple trees and we gathered the fruit while tened, felt, smelled, and tasted life in all grandma made preserves. Many of our its wonder and magnificence. This is how people adopted farming practices and harvested squash, beans, corn and potatoes. All the activities brought family together for

The stories of how the Moon and Earth wheel teachings, it is said that the west is dance around the Sun is for everyone represented by the colour black. It is the find out. In this part of the world, seasons place of physical body. The west repreare marked with the place where Earth sents the evening part of the day and is considered the life stage of adulthood the Sun, and spins on its axis, and how bringing teachings of responsibility. Sage that axis tilts and wobbles like a spinning is the medicine of the west where we clean and clear our space and prepare for the approaching winter. What are the practices Fall is full of change. Summer blossoms in your community? Ask your Elders what life was like before the reservations. Mino Pimaadizwin is filled with purpose, mean-

"Not long ago people lived freely in the natural environment. Every day was Earth Day. Relationships with sky beings were honoured morning and night. Teachings provided balance with all earth life."

Dates To Remember

October 9 - First full moon of fall. Falling leaves Moon.

October 25- New moon, darkness allows the trails of stars and planets to shine and signals the mating season for moose.

November 8 - Full moon, is the Freezing Moon.

November 23 - New moon.

December 7 - Final full moon of Fall. Darkest time of the year approaches. Little Spirit Moon

December 23 -Last new moon of

Winter Solstice - Deember 21 - 22, shortest day light and makes Winter.

Ask elders in your community, what does this season teach?

> What are the names and meanings?

5Pつ° PCdσ∫αVJ·Δ° Saa-kih-toon-kit-anishinabemowin Love Your Language



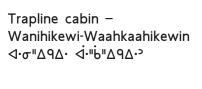
Baby in cradle board – Tahkopitaawahson C"dハĊ d・" とっ



She singes it – Epaswaac ∇<└·-



Beaver trap - Amihko Wanihikan $\ensuremath{\mbox{\sc Gr}}^{\mbox{\sc d}} \ensuremath{\mbox{\sc d}} \ensuremath{\mbox{\sc d}}^{\mbox{\sc d}} \ensuremath{\mbox{\sc d}} \ensuremath{\$







He is paddling on a canoe – Pimahkwashowe $\Lambda L^{"}b \cdot \omega \nabla \cdot$

Translation through COVID Wally McKay

Written by:

Nick Sherman, Communications Department

of the language used to describe our are not available in urban areas. next two years did not exist in Oji-Cree, Cree, and Ojibwe.

terms in the earliest days of the pan- and what were the challenges? demic was taken on by Wallace McKwhere Wallace McKay stepped in to terminology for many new words. ensure the right information was getthe language.

munities what priorities important to you?

to protect and secure our homelands. became very critical. I also understood that being remote could help the communities. I began to realize that our people can also utilize the land in their protection. Because they have their cabins, they have their

In the winter of 2020 COVID-19 was traditional areas, they can move their highlighted as a Public Health Emer- families out there during this time. This gency. It became increasingly appar- was important as we were learning we ent that this virus would dominate ev- had to isolate and that we had to protect ery aspect of our lives and be a threat ourselves. Those things became imto our communities. With the whirl- portant because, as Indigenous people, wind of information coming in, much we were blessed with certain things that

How did you approach translating words that were being used that most The translation of new and unfamiliar of the world had never heard before

ay (member of Sachigo Lake First Na- The translating became a real chaltion - Former Grand Chief, Regional lenge because COVID-19 was a new Chief and consultant for Indigenous word that developed because of the vi-Governance and Health). Challeng- rus. This is how the word, COVID-19, es and gaps in our system became came about. I thought about the word apparent as fast as the virus itself. sickness, or i-na-pi-nay-win in Oji-Cree. Travel to and from communities was Coronavirus was sort of the same word stopped and the distance between but I said, kitchi-nap-in-nay-win, the big reliable healthcare and our commu- sickness. There were no words availnities was glaring. Social media and able for describing the pandemic so I Wawatay Radio Network became a began to explain what these new terms

ting to our people and that it was in Doctors had the terminology for everything and I had to put myself in their position and understand what they are From the perspective of some-trying to say. From there I had to conone that is a leader in our com- ceptualize what the actual issue was were and translate it to the language. I always had to make sure that we got the right information to the people because, If there was a time that family became if we didn't, it would impact their health. very important it was then. One of the Social media was an obstacle that important things I did was connect caused misinformation. It was important and talk to my children, my grandchil- to let our people know that information dren, and great grandchildren to be from social media was not always acable to tell them what was happening. curate. Unfortunately, because of some I shared what will be expected and of this misinformation, we lost a numthere's going to be measures taken ber of people. In that sense, translation



Can you explain how you had to define the two terms 'Isolation and Quarantine'?

Translation for isolation is, sa-ka-ki-ni-tiso-win, which means, "to go to a place and look after yourself there."Quarantine is a more serious application of how to keep people in isolation. I remember calling to see how my brother was doing when in quarantine and the word used was, ki-pwah-a-ka-no, which roughly translates to, "in jail." This is the word we used for quaranlife-line to the communities. This is were. We are still developing the actual tine. We had to be very careful not to use these terms backwards. We needed to identify what actions could happen in isolation and in quarantine. This is how we were able to express the difference between the two terms.

What are your thoughts on moving forward and living well with COVID?

We need to realize COVID is going to be around for a very long time. People need to understand that it's like the regular flu season, you need to look after yourself. We need to accept responsibility for ourselves as individuals more than ever. One example is helping our families spend more time out on the land. With technology becoming more accessible in our communities could our children be on the land regularly while still having access to school online. This is an opportunity for us to think of things differently as Indigenous people.

Day of Truth & Reconciliation

September 30 is Orange Shirt Day

CHILD **MATTERS**



#OrangeShirtDay | #EveryChildMatters

Orange Shirt Day is on September 30. Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority is a proud supporter orangeshirtday.org

We encourage everyone on September 30th to wear orange, and listen and seek out stories from survivors and their families from Residential Schools.

Remember, Every Child Matters.

We wear orange because wearing orange shirts are a symbol of defiance against those things that undermine children's self-esteem, and of our commitment to anti-racism and anti-bullying in general.





The Story Behind Orange Shirt Day

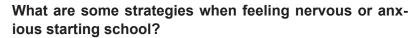
"I went to the Mission for one year. I had just turned 6 years old. We never had very much money, and there was no welfare, but somehow my granny managed to buy me a new outfit to go to the Mission School in. I remember going to Robinson's store and picking out a shiny orange shirt. It had eyelets and lace, and I felt so pretty in that shirt and excited to be going to school! Of course, when I got to the Mission, they stripped me, and took away my clothes, including the orange shirt. I never saw it again, except on other kids. I didn't understand why they wouldn't give it back to me, it was mine! Since then the colour orange has always reminded me of that and how my feelings didn't matter, how no one cared and how I felt like I was worth nothing. I finally get it, that the feeling of worthlessness and insignificance, ingrained in me from my first day at the mission, affected the way I lived my life for many years...I want my orange shirt back!"

Phyllis (Jack) Webstad, Dog Creek, BC

Back to School Q&A with Sara Sakamoto, School Counsellor

Boozhoo! My name is Sara Sakamoto and I work at SLFNHA as a Youth School Counsellor providing free mental health counselling services to students attending Sioux North High School. When needed, I also offer support to Pelican Falls First Nation High School students. I have been in this role for almost four years and absolutely love it

I am a mother of three school aged kids, two of whom are in high school, and my husband is a teacher at Sioux North. I grew up in Nova Scotia but have lived in Sioux Lookout for the past 17 years and it has become a second home to me. I love the outdoors and spend as much time as I can in nature either walking or running with my shaggy dog named Lucky, fishing, or just enjoying the fresh air.



One thing to remember is that it is totally normal to feel nervous about starting school – even teachers get anxious about it! Change, even if it is something you have been looking forward to, can be scary. Strategies to help ease this transition to school include developing a consistent sleep schedule that ensures you get at least eight hours of sleep per night. Proper rest helps you to better manage your feelings.

Keep an open mind! Everyone else is also feeling a bit apprehensive so connect with others and make plans to do things together. This may mean joining a school activity such as a sports team or visiting the WINKS building (where there is a lot of fun stuff to do). The key is social connection so that you don't feel alone with your thoughts and worries.

And finally, make sure to engage in activities that you typically enjoy every day. Perhaps this is playing an instrument, watching a funny TV show, or going for a walk. Fostering positive feelings is a great way to protect yourself against life's inevitable challenges.

What advice would give to other students about travelling away from home for high school?

Sioux Lookout has much to offer and there are lots of options to get involved within the community. Challenge yourself and move out of your comfort zone by trying new things, talking to new people, and volunteering for various organizations. We often feel better about ourselves when we are helping others (and you can receive credit for volunteer hours required to graduate)! Take advantage of opportunities that you may not



have in your community. Bring someone you already know with you to help ease any jitters.

What are some tools students can use to ground themselves when they feel anxious or a panic attack happens?

Panic attacks can happen to anyone and are frightening but they won't kill you and they rarely last more than 30 minutes. Sometimes our bodies are tricked into thinking they are under threat when really, we are safe.

First, focus on controlling your breath by taking slow, deep inhales and exhales. Deep breathing sends a signal to your body that you are ok, and it will gradually respond by reducing your heartrate and relaxing. Repeat a calming mantra while you breathe such as "I am safe" or "Relax."

Once your body starts to calm down, notice what you observe around you – what do you see? what do you hear? what do you smell? Feel the firmness of the ground below you. As long as you are not in a situation that is actually threatening (e.g., a fire), focusing on the present moment reminds you that you are safe.

Do you have any safety tips to share?

If heading out somewhere, make sure someone knows where you are going and when you plan to return. Whenever possible, use the buddy system – travel together and watch each other's back. Report any suspicious behaviour to a trusted adult or call the police.

Regarding Internet safety, remember that anyone can pretend to be someone they are not. Don't friend people whom you don't know and never send photos, texts, or messages that you wouldn't want anyone else to see. Again, if you notice any suspicious behaviour or on-line bullying, tell a trusted adult.

Job Openings at SLFNHA #SLFNHAlsHiring!

SLFNHA is hiring in Sioux Lookout! We have many job opportunities hiring immediately:

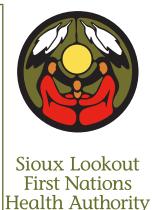
- Patient Navigators
- Interpreter Receptionist
- Airport Interpreter
- Rehabilitation Assistants
- Mental Health Counsellors
- Environmental Health Assistant
- Meno Ajimoowin Anookiwin (Knowledge Translation Specialist)

See these job postings and more at **SLFNHA.com/careers**









SLFNHA Service Area

MAP LEGEND Street Lookback Filter. Harlons Hearth Authority. Serviced Communities Regional Communities Treaty Foundary. Transport Communities Served to SLENITA Nothing to Committee Tracky

Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority P.O. Box 1300, 61 Queen Street Sioux Lookout, ON P8T 1B8 Phone: 1 (807) 737-1802

Toll Free: 1 800- 842-0681

www.slfnha.com

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