OUJE-BOUGOUMOU
CREE NATION

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 6 JULY - SEPTEMBER 2026 | www.ouje.ca



OUJE-BOUGOUMOU
CREE NATION

EDITOR: Lance Cooper

GRAPHIC DESIGN: Thy Le

All pictures provided for use

Special thanks to all those who contributed to this newsletter!

Please send feedback to:
Ouje-Bougoumou Cree Nation
207 Opemiska Meskino
Ouje-Bougoumou, Quebec
G0W 3C0

Email: communications@ouje.ca

CONTENTS | Click on any section to read first!

03 Education

05 Natural Resources Department

06 Capital Projects

09 Cultural Corner

10 Youth Highlights

13 Wellness Center

17 Meet Our Staff

18 Growing Together

19 Upcoming Events

Congratulations to All Our Graduates!

We are proud of all our graduates and wish you the very best as you take your next steps.

We are excited to see what the future holds and look forward to seeing all that you will accomplish in your next endeavours.

Education is the key to success. Go out there and unlock your potential and make your dreams a reality!

Congratulations, graduates! We are proud of you!



École La Porte-Du-Nord, Chibougamau *- Antoine Bosum*



Waapihtiwewan's Class of 2026 *- Anastasia Shecapio, Caylee Capassisit-Mianscum, Chance Neeposh, Eva St-Pierre Bosum, Mason Mianscum, Michael Meguish, Noah Bosum*



Dawson College *– Megan Bosum, General Studies Graduate*





Algonquin College *– Siikun Wapachee, Diplomas in Pre-Health Sciences: Pathways to Advanced Diplomas & Degrees and Creative Writing*



Algonquin College *– Catherine Wapachee, Pre-Health Sciences Graduate*



MacLean Memorial School, Chibougamau *– Ryan Cooper, Secondary 5 Graduate*



MacLean Memorial School, Chibougamau *– Esther Bosum, Recipients of the 2024–2025 Governor General's Academic Medal*



MacLean Memorial School, Chibougamau *– Eryka Longchap-Lapointe, Recipients of the 2024–2025 Governor General's Academic Medal*



Collège des Hauts Sommets *– Adam Bosum, Secondary 5 Graduate*



Carleton University *– Miranda Shecapio-Blacksmith, Bachelor of Social Work (Honours)*



McGill University *– Nancy Shecapio-Blacksmith and Miguel Shecapio-Blacksmith, Certificate in Public Administration and Governance*

Back to Contents

Land Keepers Program

The Land Keepers Program plays an important role in protecting our land and supporting environmental stewardship in our territory.

Our local Land Keepers spend time on the land observing environmental conditions, monitoring wildlife, documenting land use activities, and reporting concerns that may affect our land and ecosystems.

Their knowledge, experience, and connection to the land are valuable to our community. Their work helps support conservation efforts and ensures that our traditional values continue to guide decisions about our territory.

We would also like to welcome our Land Keepers, **Jeremiah Capissisit** and **Jayden Shecapio-Blacksmith**. We wish them well as they begin this exciting new role and look forward to the contributions they will make to our community and territory.

By supporting the Land Keepers Program, we are helping protect our land for today and for future generations.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all of our Land Keepers for their continued dedication, hard work, and valuable contributions to the community.



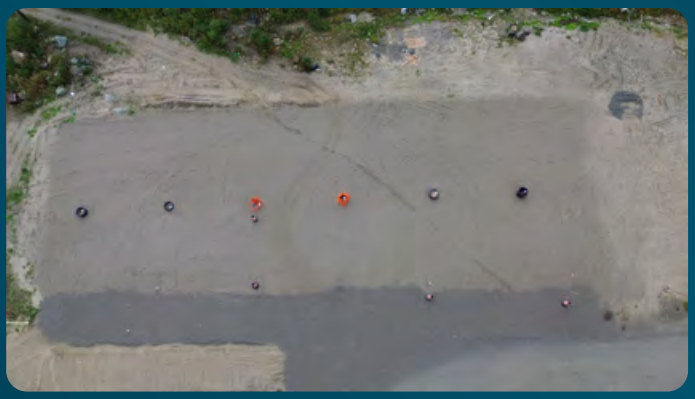
Back to Contents

Exciting projects are on the way!

The Capital Projects Department has several exciting projects underway that will help support and improve our community. Stay tuned for updates and more information as these projects move forward.



Corrections to the storm sewer and drainage systems
Work started: *July 3, 2026*
Expected Completion: *October 30, 2026*
Phase 2
Project cost: *$2,804,133.20*



Infrastructure for 6 mobile homes
Work Started: *June 11, 2026.*
Work Completed: *July 10, 2026*
Project cost: *$378,292.00*



Emergency Repairs to the Band Office
Work Started: *May 25, 2026.*
Expected Completion: *February, 2027*
Project cost: *$2,774,309.00*



Emergency Generator for the Community
Work started: *November 3, 2025*
Work completed. *Just a final test to be done.*
Project Cost: *$261,996.25*

Fire Hall Extension
Work started *October 7, 2025.*
Expected Completion: *November 2026.*
Project Cost *$1,029,600.00*



Commercial Center
Work Started: *September 15, 2025.*
Expected Completion: *End of 2027, following delays*
Project cost *$17,675,333.00*



Back to Contents

Zoning Law Implementation
Steps for a Construction Project

1 Obtain a Zoning Permit

- All construction projects require an approved Zoning Permit before work begins.
- You must submit a Zoning Permit application and wait for it to be approved. If construction begins without a permit, the Local Land Registrar will issue a Notice of Non-Compliance.

2 Projects Requiring a Zoning Permit

A Zoning Permit is required for:

- Construction of a new building
- Alteration or renovation of an existing building
- Construction or renovation of a garage, carport, shed, fence, open deck or patio, balcony, solarium or wall
- Landscaping, parking areas and driveways

3 How to Obtain a Zoning Permit

Obtain and complete an application form. You will also need to provide the following project information:

- Proposed site plan
- Building plan
- Building dimensions
- Area of liveable space
- Building footprint and number of floors
- Lot size and lot-coverage calculations

Common Zoning Infractions in Ouje-Bougoumou

A Zoning Permit is required for:

- Using shipping containers as sheds or garages in residential areas
- Parking heavy machinery on residential streets
- Operating home businesses that create nuisances, including carpentry or mechanical work
- Having several sheds on one residential lot
- Failing to respect property-lot boundaries











Where to Obtain a Zoning Permit

Local Land Registrar Office:
Bryton Mianscum-Shecapio

209 Oujé-Bougoumou Meskino
Ouje-Bougoumou, QC G0W 3C0
Email: **b.mianscum@ouje.ca**
Telephone: **418-745-2345**, ext. **227**

Back to Contents

Zoning Information & Seasonal Reminders

Community members are encouraged to review the following zoning requirements and seasonal reminders before beginning any construction project.

Secondary Construction
Sheds, Garages, Carports and Tempos



Step 1
Obtain a Permit

Under Chapter 4, Section E, secondary construction is permitted in all residential zones.

Step 2
Regulations

General Rules

- Secondary structures must be located **within the right-of-way**, not on private lots.
- Secondary structures may **not be used for human habitation**.
- A main building must be present on the lot where a secondary structure is built. Both may be constructed simultaneously.

Permitted Construction

- **Only one of each type** of secondary structure - 1 shed, 1 garage, 1 carport, 1 tempo, etc. - is permitted per lot.
- A secondary structure **cannot be higher than the main building**, and there cannot be more than one floor.
- The total lot coverage of sheds and garages must **not exceed 10%**.
- Sheds must be located at **least five metres** from the main building.
- An attached garage is considered part of the main building and is not included in these restrictions.



Important Considerations

- Teepees and outdoor cooking installations are permitted when placed at the back of the lot, away from the house and at **least one metre (3.3 feet)** from adjacent properties.
- Unsafe or dilapidated sheds **must** be demolished and removed from the lot.
- **Seasonal structures**, including temporary tarps and tempos, are permitted only between **September 15 and May 15**.
- Non-functioning or out-of-commission equipment must be removed from the lot.

Cree Language Program 2.0

The Cree Language Program is returning in collaboration with the OBCN Youth Department! Open to learners of all levels, from beginners to advanced, the program offers a flexible and accessible way to strengthen Cree speaking, reading, and writing skills.

The **23-week** program begins **September 21** and continues until **mid-March 2027**, with classes held **three evenings per week** from **6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m**. Each session includes speaking and pronunciation practice, vocabulary building, the creation of learning tools such as flashcards and memory cards, and instruction in reading and writing Cree syllabics.

Participants may join in person or online. Although live online sessions may not always be available, recorded sessions will be provided whenever possible for those unable to attend.

Please scan the QR code to complete the registration form. Registered participants will be contacted with further details.



2026 Youth Canoe Brigade



From August 4–15, a group of youth embarked on a meaningful journey through our beautiful territory, travelling across lakes and rivers and concluding their journey at Lake Opemiska.

Led by David G. Bosum and Nancy Coonishish, the team embraced the challenges of the journey while creating lasting memories and strengthening their connection to the land, culture and community.

We commend all the participants, leaders and workers who took part in this meaningful journey of hope and healing. Your hard work, determination and commitment demonstrated great strength and perseverance.

With every paddle stroke, you carried forward the spirit of perseverance, culture and community pride.

We celebrate this journey with you and are proud of everything you accomplished along the way.



2026 Eeyou Istchee Summer Games

July 20–25, 2026 | Chisasibi

Competition ▪ Culture ▪ Community

What an exciting summer it was for our athletes who competed at the **2026 Eeyou Istchee Summer Games** in Chisasibi!

Although our team was still on the road as the Opening Ceremonies got underway, our athletes arrived ready to compete, represent Oujé-Bougoumou and make their community proud.
It was a week filled with **competition, culture, friendship and unforgettable memories**. Our athletes gave it their all and showed determination, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the Games.

🥇 8 Gold Medals
🥈 7 Silver Medals
🥉 9 Bronze Medals

With an incredible **24 medals**, Oujé-Bougoumou finished **4th overall**, competing alongside some of the larger communities in Eeyou Istchee.









Back to Contents



We are incredibly proud of **all our athletes** and the way they represented our community.
A special thank you to the **Youth & Recreation Department** for all their hard work and dedication in preparing our team and making sure our athletes were ready to compete.

To all the **parents, guardians, coaches and chaperones**, thank you for your encouragement, support and for being there every step of the way.

Congratulations to Team Oujé-Bougoumou!
You made us proud!





Summer Games Results

U12 Male 3X3 basketball		Silver
U12 Male softball		Silver
U12 Female softball		Bronze
U12 Male 2K cross country	Carson Bosum	Silver
U12 Female 2K Cross Country	Jolina G. Cooper	Bronze
U15 Male 3X3 basketball		Bronze
U15 Female 3X3 basketball		Silver
U15 Male 5X5 basketball		Silver
U18 Female volleyball		Silver
U18 Female 5X5 basketball		Bronze
U18 Female beach volleyball	Tessa Bosum & Esther Bosum	Gold
U18 Female canoe doubles	Elisha Bosum & Kanya Bosum	Gold
U18 Male canoe doubles	Josiah Simard & Myles Cooper	Gold
U15 Male Discus	Marshall C. Salt	Gold
U15 Male shotput	Youdin St. Pierre	Bronze
U15 Male discus	Youdin St. Pierre	Bronze
U18 Male discus	Ryan Cooper	Silver
U18 Male discus	Maverick Coonishish	Bronze
U18 Male shotput	Ryan Cooper	Gold
U18 Female High Jump	Audrey Flageole	Gold
U18 Female Long jump	Qianna Maplagama	Bronze
U18 Male 5K cross country	Maverick Coonishish	Gold

Back to Contents

A New Place for Our Young People!

An exciting new addition for our young people to enjoy! The Skatepark opening was a great success, with many community members joining in the festivities.

The Skatepark gives our children a place to have fun, learn new skills, stay active, and come together with friends and family.

We encourage all parents and guardians to make sure children have the proper safety equipment, including helmets and protective gear. Our children love to be daring and try new things, so let's do our part to help keep them safe while they enjoy the Skatepark.

Miigwetch to everyone who helped make the opening a success. We look forward to seeing people of all ages enjoy this new space!







Back to Contents

Family and Community Programs designed with you in mind

Our community programs provide opportunities for children, families, women, and new parents to learn, connect, and grow together. Through a variety of activities, workshops, and events, these programs promote healthy living, self-confidence, family connection, and cultural identity.

Healthy Baby Program

The Healthy Baby Program provides activities and support to encourage healthy child development and bring new parents together. The program includes hands-on activities, learning opportunities, and time for parents to share their experiences.

Some of the activities include:

- Baby massage
- Baby food preparation
- Sharing and support for new mothers
- Baby keepsakes and crafts
- Painting baby's hands and feet
- Baby and family calendars
- Halloween and Christmas crafts
- Special events and activities throughout the year

The Wellness Department provides snacks and materials needed for the program activities.



Children's program: Working with our hands



Children's program: Life Skills

Children's Program

The Children's Program provides activities that help children develop important life skills, build self-esteem and confidence, and learn more about who they are as Eeyou/Eenou people.

Activities include:

- Bike rallies and swimming
- Mother's Day crafts
- Beading and necklace making
- Beach days and hiking
- Back-to-school activities
- Baking and cooking
- Terry Fox activities
- Safety activities and discussions
- Halloween and Christmas events
- Arts and crafts

The program gives children a chance to have fun, learn new skills, and spend time together in a positive and supportive environment.

Women's Program

The Women's Program provides a safe and welcoming space for women to connect, support one another, and focus on personal growth and wellness. Through workshops, activities, and group discussions, the program encourages women to build each other up, learn new skills, and enjoy time together.

Activities include:

- Cooking sessions
- Swimming
- Self-care activities
- Sewing
- Make-up and personal care workshops
- Self-defence training
- Healthy living and food workshops
- Support groups and discussions
- Home décor projects
- Seasonal events and cooking activities



Beautiful beading work done by our local women

Family Program

The Family Program supports families by providing activities that encourage healthy relationships, family connection, and personal growth. Programs are offered twice a month, depending on the needs of families in the community.

Activities include:

- Swimming and family baking
- Family crafts and painting
- Mother's Day and Father's Day activities
- Beach days
- Family self-care and hygiene activities
- Activities for low-income families
- Family painting and T-shirt projects
- Terry Fox activities
- General family safety discussions
- Halloween activities and baking
- Bowling and swimming
- Christmas suppers and community events

These programs are about bringing people together, creating positive experiences, and providing support to children, women, parents, and families in our community. We encourage everyone to take part, connect with one another, and make the most of these opportunities throughout the year and well beyond.

Olivia Couchees - Community Wellness Program Monitor

Family beach day



Back to Contents

Domestic Violence Awareness Week

Domestic Violence Awareness Week brought our community together for a meaningful week of learning, connection, healing, and support. The week included guest speakers and community partners, including EEPF, Robin's Nest, and the Men's Shelter.

Participants took part in a breakfast brunch, workshops focused on Healthy Relationships, Safety Planning, Understanding Ourselves & Relationships, and Creating Change. Traditional activities such as wood carving, moose call making, ribbon skirt making, and beading provided opportunities to connect with culture and community.

One-on-one sessions and sharing circles were also available, with additional support workers present to provide guidance and support throughout the week

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Community Partners

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all of the wonderful partners and community members who contributed their time, knowledge, and support to making our Domestic Violence Awareness Week a meaningful and successful event.

Your dedication helped create a safe space for learning, connection, healing, and community support. We are grateful for each of you and the important work you continue to do in our community.









With sincere appreciation to:

- **Miguel Shecapio – Blacksmith** - Miyuimaatisiun Chairperson & Youth Chief
- **Vanessa Gunn** – Youth Development Coordinator
- **Aliyah S. Bosum** – Youth Special Projects Facilitator
- **Abriel Capissisit** – Administrative Assistant
- **Cassidie Decontie** – PPRO, Healthy Eeyou Youth
- **Sarah Pineda** – Community Organizer, RSW
- **Vicky Longchap** – Justice Officer
- **Helen Salt** – Community Worker, Mental Health

Thank you for sharing your time, skills, experiences, and passion with our community. Your involvement made a difference, and we truly appreciate the role each of you played in bringing this week together.

Together, we can continue creating awareness, strengthening relationships, supporting one another, and creating positive change.

Miigwetch / Thank you!

Jamie Fawn Mianscum – Community Wellness Coordinator

OUJE-BOUGOUMOU
CREE NATION

Dr. Gordon A Johnston

TRAINING

Healer Helper Coaches Program

A 5-Level Healer Helper Coaches Training Program.

1. **Theory – Understanding People**
   Learn the foundation of human behavior and relationships.
2. **Assessment Instruments**
   Learn how to use tools that support insight and growth.
3. **Skills Training**
   Build practical skills to support and guide others effectively.
4. **Intervention**
   Learn how to respond with compassion and confidence.
5. **Practicum – Practical Application**
   Put your learning into action and make a real impact.

EVENT INFORMATION

LEVEL 1

OCTOBER
5–9,
2026
9:00A– 4:30PM
LOCATION: TBD

For more information contact
Jamie Fawn @ Wellness Department.
(418) 745-2366 ext 221

If you care about others
and want to make a positive difference
in your community,
this training is for you.

Back to Contents

Coordinator of Strategic Initiatives

We are pleased to introduce **Emily Wesley**, Ouje-Bougoumou Cree Nation's **Coordinator – Strategic Initiatives**.

Reporting to the Director General, Emily supports the coordination and implementation of OBCN's projects, strategic initiatives, and organizational priorities. Her role includes working with departments, supporting projects and partnerships, assisting with planning and reporting, and helping ensure that initiatives move forward in a coordinated and effective manner.

Emily also works closely with staff and community partners to support collaboration, communication, and initiatives that reflect the priorities and values of Ouje-Bougoumou Cree Nation.

We welcome Emily to this important role and wish her continued success as she supports the work of our organization and community.



Community Garden Summary

The 2026 growing season began with seeding in early July. The month of July brought warm temperatures, creating excellent growing conditions. Two dedicated volunteers regularly watered the garden to ensure the vegetables remained healthy during this period.

On **July 30, 2026**, with the assistance of **Plomberie Chibougamau**, a drip irrigation system was installed, significantly improving the efficiency of watering and reducing the time required for garden maintenance.

August brought cooler temperatures and frequent rainfall, which slowed the growth of some vegetables. Despite these weather challenges, the garden produced a successful harvest. By mid-September, we harvested a variety of fresh vegetables and distributed **36 bags** to community members.

The harvest is not yet complete. Carrots and potatoes will remain in the ground to mature and are expected to be harvested by **mid-October**, completing another successful growing season for the Ouje-Bougoumou Community Garden.









Back to Contents





Back to Contents