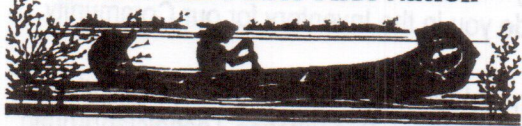


## Lac Des Mille Lacs First Nation



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## January 2011 NEWSLETTER

### Boozhoo Membership

Hoping that this Newsletter finds all of our membership in good health following the Christmas & Holiday Season! With the New Year upon us we wanted to inform the membership of some important initiatives that the Administration is working on and of some of the upcoming events that are planned for early 2011.

### OSISKO MINING CORPORATION

As reported to the membership in 2010, the Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Brett Resources who were the owners of the Hammond Reef Gold Properties located just north of Atikokan, Ontario and within the Traditional Territories of the Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation. Since that time there has been a change in ownership of the Hammond Reef Properties as the Osisko Mining Corporation successfully took over Brett Resources. The Memorandum of Understanding that was in place with Brett Resources was transferrable to the Osisko Mining Corporation at the time of their takeover. On December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 the Osisko Mining Corporation signed a Resource Sharing Agreement with the First Nation Communities belonging to the Fort Frances Chiefs Secretariat and the Community of Nezaadiikaang (Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation).

Osisko Mining Corporation is now performing an advanced drilling program on the Hammond Reef Property to affirm the quantity of gold in the deposit. It has been confirmed that there is sufficient gold in the deposit to justify the construction of an open-pit mine on the property and in all likelihood Osisko will begin mine construction and development in 2012.

The Resource Sharing Agreement that is in place calls for Osisko to provide employment opportunities respecting the Hammond Reef Project where possible and commercially reasonable. Members of the locally surrounding First Nation Communities will take priority respecting employment opportunities so long as they meet the requisite skills, education, experience, and job qualifications of a particular position. Employment opportunities and corresponding job descriptions will be communicated to the LDMLFN in a timely manner by Osisko Hammond Reef. Regarding contract and business opportunities, Osisko Hammond Reef will conduct a bidding process for equipment and services. Subject to the principles of fair competition and meeting service, price and other relevant criteria, Osisko Hammond Reef will give preference firstly to Locally Owned Businesses from the surrounding Local First Nation Communities.

### LDMLFN SKILLS INVENTORY

In an effort to ensure that the Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation is prepared for calls for employment and contracts, our Administration is continuing to develop a Skills Inventory for our Community. Our First Nation has limited information on the specific education, certifications and qualifications of Community members and this type of information would be very useful to have to assist in decision making and assessing opportunities. We are requesting that all members who may have an interest in gaining employment within the mining industry once the opportunities become available assist us with the development of this Inventory. With such an Inventory on-hand at the Administration Office we will be able to contact and notify

## **ABORIGINAL ARTS EDUCATION PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT**

We are pleased to announce LDMLFN was the successful recipient of an Aboriginal Arts Education Project grant awarded by the Ontario Arts Council (OAC) for a new initiative called *Sewing Spirits*.

*Sewing Spirits* will bring together cultural artists, Elders, and our First Nation community members to transmit regalia making skills and traditional teachings about Anishinabe dance and drum. The duration of this project is 16 weeks, and we hope to commence in February. Under the guidance of an experienced regalia maker, and elders, participants will learn different skills and traditional teachings related to sewing, dance, and drum.

If you are interested in participating in the project, or have a sewing machine that you can lend to those interested in sewing, please contact *Danielle at the Band Office*. Pending on numbers and interest, it is suggested that the group(s) will meet each week for two hours. Suggested evenings are Mondays and Wednesdays.

The idea for the project came from our band member Celeste Pedri. A jingle dancer herself, Celeste noticed that there were community members (including our youth) that wanted to learn about dance and participate in pow-wows, but felt reluctant to because they didn't have regalia and did not know how to go about learning more about traditional dance. In August 2010, Celeste with the support of Chief and Council completed the grant application to the OAC.

*Sewing Spirits* is an important step in helping the Lac des Mille Lacs community reconnect with their traditional cultural arts and practices. The community believes that this is essential to building a stronger, healthier community. This project will help community members build individual, cultural, and community identity by providing a supportive, safe, learning environment that empowers the creativity of all participants.

Chi Miigwetch to Celeste for taking on this initiative! It is very much appreciated and welcomed.

**All Interested Participants are asked to attend an "Information Evening" scheduled for Wednesday February 16<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Band Office.**