

# NEWSLETTER

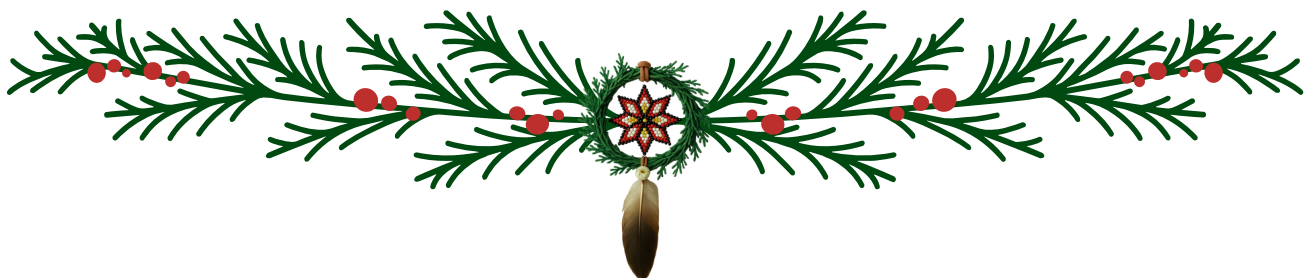


## IN THIS EDITION

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## FALL ASSEMBLY 2025

Thank you to our members who travelled from near and far to learn and grow together at ONWAA's Fall Assembly. We are honoured to share our new training with you. Thank you to our sponsors and vendors for your valuable contributions. We look forward to more opportunities in the new year and we extend a warm welcome our new members.



### **A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**

Well, it has been another amazing year for ONWAA and on our sister side Ishkoday. Lots of great training, tools developed and an amazing Fall Assembly was had. We look forward to serving you throughout this next year.

As a reminder ONWAA began Ishkoday because the membership were requesting additional resources and tools to help with the energy issues facing our communities. By default, if you are an ONWAA member you are also an Ishkoday member and I should let you know that next year will be the Board elections.

Please ensure you invite the Ishkoday team to your community to assist with OESP apps, provide energy efficiency training and connect with other programs and services. There will be further information on how to nominate for the Ishkoday Board of Directors in the Spring. But basically, the Administrator can nominate anyone for their community to sit on the Board as long as the Community is in good standing.

I want to thank all of you for being members for 2025-26. I also want to wish you all a safe and happy Holiday season, see you in 2026.

Yours truly,

Jess



At ONWAA & Ishkoday, Jessica ensures the teams prioritize health, wellness, and safety. We've asked her to share her top tips to ensure a safe and stress-free holiday season.

- Go for a nature walk
- Take vitamins & probiotics
- Stay within your budget by handcrafting gifts/baking
- Practice traditional forms of self-care (light a fire, smudge, storytelling, & traditional medicines)
- Check on your Elderly neighbours & lend a hand
- Avoid overscheduling and be present with loved ones.
- Be fire safe - avoid overloaded electrical circuits with extension cords and heaters & have a fire extinguisher.
- Reach out to Hope for Wellness Hotline if you or a loved on is struggling with mental health: 1-855-242-3310

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S RETIREES!**

We wish our members Carol Taylor, from Georgina Island, and Audrey McGraw-Stone, from Aundeck Omni Kaning, a wonderful retirement. Thank you for years of dedication and service to your communities. We also wish Lorna Bell, former Energy Coach, a happy retirement and thank her for 10 years of dedication to ONWAA.



### **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FNSSAC GRADUATES!**

We wish this years amazing class success in their careers. Thank you for making FNSSAC such a positive experience!



### **A MESSAGE FROM OUR CURRICULUM TEAM:**

As the year comes to an end, we take this opportunity to celebrate our accomplishments and highlight the exciting developments from recent months. From completed projects to new initiatives, this year has been about growth, teamwork, and constant progress.

Our curriculum development team has been working tirelessly on a 4-module Train the Trainer Workshop, designed to help you become an effective, independent, and self-directed leader, educator, and facilitator. By combining facilitation techniques with confidence-building strategies, you'll gain practical tools to improve your teaching, boost your confidence, and guide others effectively. The program also provides essential knowledge and resources to help you navigate change in both personal and professional settings, understand policy, conduct effective research, and grasp key economic concepts—all designed to support your self-reliance, protect our cultural heritage, and equip you for success in diverse environments.

We sincerely appreciate everyone's contributions and support, and we look forward to continuing this journey together in the year ahead.

Wishing you a joyful holiday season!

Andrew & Staci



### **COMING SOON!** **Income Assistance Design**

- Community Engagement
- Research & Planning
- Change Management
- Program Design

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR MYC TEAM:

Season's Greetings – our cold weather is setting in, and we hope you had a safe and enjoyable summer. In the month of November, we welcome Baashkaakodin-Giizis, known in English as Freezing Moon.

In addition to regional training, our team continues to provide free onsite training, bringing our workshops directly to your community for accessibility and convenience. Some training topics include: New Administrator and Case Worker Training, Employment Support Worker Training, Chief & Council presentations, Life Stabilization Training, Homemakers training and more! New this year, we're excited to offer Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) training for those interested in expanding their knowledge and skills.

Our onsite training dates fill up quickly, so if you are interested in having an Income Assistance Trainer provide a customized training session online or in-person, or would like to have your training needs assessed, please contact [info@onwaa.ca](mailto:info@onwaa.ca) or call 1-877-291-7542.

If you are new to your role, reach out to our team and we can discuss setting up onboarding and training sessions. We'd love to work with you and look forward to connecting with new and existing members!

We hope you stay cozy all winter long and get some well-deserved rest!

Warm wishes from your Training and Development Team,

Kelsey, Mycah, Keith, Jane, Krista, and Chelsea



### A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIGITAL TEAM:

Aanii Everyone!

It was so great to see so many of you at the ONWAA Fall Assembly this past October.

Our team has been busy developing the Short-term Capacity Building, Self-Care & Resiliency eLearn Course, as well as researching and developing ONWAA's first Podcast, Inside ONWAA! We're so excited to share our recordings with you. Our first episode can be found on Spotify: Inside ONWAA - History of ONWAA. In this episode, we sit down with Elder Susie Taylor and special guest, Curve Lake First Nation's Chief Keith Knott, to reflect on the history of the Ontario Native Welfare Administrators' Association. We discussed the organization's beginnings, the founder Kathleen Taylor, the challenges faced, and the vision that continues to guide our work today.

The Digital Team is looking forward to a busy couple of months with development of eLearn course, Privacy and Third Party Verification, LMS curriculum updates, as well as producing episode 2 of the Inside ONWAA Podcast where we introduce the new Organization, Ishkoday, the First Nation Energy Sustainability Association, and discuss Energy Poverty in First Nations.

The Digital Team at ONWAA wishes you a safe & warm holiday season!



### **A MESSAGE FROM OUR TEAM AT ISHKODAY:**

I am the newest member of the Ishkoday team in the position of Social Energy Coach. Over the last few months, I've had the pleasure of visiting several communities in the Northwestern Ontario region. While visiting these communities, I have been warmly welcomed by the community's Ontario Works Administrators.

The purpose of these visits was to ensure that community members were accessing valuable hydro supports such as the Ontario Energy Support Program and the First Nations Delivery Credit, both of which play an important part in helping residents manage their hydro costs.

During my time in these communities, I also introduced the Boodawewin "app", a tool designed to help individuals identify grant/savings opportunities and help residents access supports.

These visits were both rewarding and inspiring. It was wonderful to connect directly with residents, answer questions and see firsthand the positive impacts that these programs can have. I left the communities feeling hopeful and encouraged, not only by the appreciation shown by the community members but also by the kindness and collaboration demonstrated by everyone I met and the genuine caring I witnessed as the Ontario Works Coordinators dealt with their client base. These experiences are a reminder of the importance of partnership, outreach, connection and helping communities thrive.

Rhonda Howells

To learn more about Energy Programs available now, please visit our website.



[www.ishkoday.ca](http://www.ishkoday.ca)



## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

We appreciate the contributions of our sponsors and business allies. Sponsorship allows ONWAA to continue our important work and training opportunities. We are seeking new sponsors for next years Fall Assembly. Please contact our communications team at [tz.cd@onwaa.ca](mailto:tz.cd@onwaa.ca) to discuss the many benefits of sponsorship.



### We welcome your input.

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is looking for your input on our proposed approach to site selection for our second deep geological repository project. This project is designed to safely contain and isolate intermediate- and high-level radioactive waste and potentially used fuel from new nuclear reactors in the future. The discussion document outlining our approach is available through the QR code and on our website at [nwmo.ca/new-projects](http://nwmo.ca/new-projects).

Please reach out by email at [ILW@nwmo.ca](mailto:ILW@nwmo.ca) if you would like to collaborate, request a workshop or share your comments. Your input will help refine our approach before the site selection process is launched in 2028.

**nwmo**NUCLEAR WASTE  
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ORGANIZATIONSOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION  
DES DÉCHETS  
NUCLÉAIRES

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2025 AWARD RECIPIENT!



This year's Gabrielle Kakegamic award went to Joeseeph Ominika from Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve for his valuable work. Please look for the opportunity to nominate staff for next years awards.

