

Training and employment

WOCC worked with the eight Nations to organize six job fairs related to the projects in late May 2026. More job fairs are planned for fall 2026 and in 2027. These events will promote construction job opportunities for both projects and the broader career opportunities that can be leveraged from working on these projects.

WOCC has been working with Valard Construction and AECON Group to understand the jobs that will be available and what training may be required for community members. Both contractors predict the projects will provide as many jobs as the Nations can provide members. Potential jobs include work related to tower construction, such as inventory management, staging and coordination of assembly parts, actual assembly of the towers, assistance in erecting the towers in place and finally the stringing of transmission wire between the constructed towers. Other jobs may include camp personnel and administrative roles.

This is a very exciting and real opportunity for the Waasmoowin Communities. WOCC and the Community Economic Development managers are meeting regularly to discuss these career opportunities.

If you have any questions related to job opportunities for the projects, please reach out to your Community Economic Development manager or etp@waasmoowin.com



Want more information about Waasmoowin Opportunities and Consultation Council? Please visit waasmoowin.com



Getting involved

As we prepare for the 2026 field season, we're pleased to see strong interest from communities wanting to participate. Field programs are a great opportunity to collaborate and build connections on the ground. If you or someone you know would like to get involved, please reach out to your Project Engagement Coordinator to learn more about available opportunities.



For more information about these and other projects, please visit:

www.hydroone.com/about/corporate-information/major-projects

Ziigwan / Niibin 2026

Waasmoowin Opportunities & Consultation Council and Hydro One

Newsletter



About the project

The proposed **North Shore Link** will be a new double-circuit, 230-kilovolt transmission line that will run 105 kilometres between Mississagi Transformer Station near Wharnciffe and Third Line Transformer Station in Sault Ste. Marie.

The **Northeast Power Line** will be a new single-circuit, 500-kilovolt transmission line that will run 205 kilometres between Hanmer Transformer Station in Sudbury to Mississagi Transformer Station near Wharnciffe.

Message from the Board

Boozhoo. The Waasmoowin Opportunities & Consultation Council (WOCC) Board of Directors is proud to reflect on more significant progress and collaboration among our eight partner First Nations and project partners at Hydro One. The signing of the Cooperation and Support Agreement in February 2026 marked an important milestone in advancing a respectful and collaborative path forward for the project. We are also encouraged by the continued efforts to maximize procurement and economic participation opportunities for our communities, including the establishment of Debinigewin LP as a shared commercial partnership entity. We extend our sincere gratitude to the WOCC Council of Elders for their ongoing guidance throughout this journey. As we look ahead to construction beginning in early 2027 for the Northeast Power Line and October 2027 for the North Shore Link, we remain committed to working together in unity to create long-term benefits for our communities and future generations.

In partnership, WOCC Board of Directors

Did you know?

Hydro One has committed to investing more than \$9 million directly in the partner communities' capacity to meaningfully participate in the projects, including completing studies, conducting community engagement and helping shape the projects' development.

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Illustrations by Storm Angeoneb

Did you know?



Hydro One is Ontario's largest electricity transmission and distribution service provider. It distributes electricity to nearly 1.5 million residential and business customers.



Hydro One's service territory covers approximately 90 per cent of Ontario. It also generates and distributes electricity to 22 remote communities in the far north of Ontario.



Hydro One owns, manages and maintains enough electricity distribution lines to wrap around Earth three times.



waasmoowin
Opportunities and
Consultation Council

Our new logo

Waasmoowin Opportunities and Consultation Council and Waasmoowin General Partnership are pleased to unveil a new logo that reflects the strength of community connection, shared responsibility, and a forward-looking vision for future generations.

The new visual identity marks an important milestone for Waasmoowin and offers a meaningful symbol of the relationships, values, and collective leadership that continue to guide its work.

At the heart of the logo is a story of connection—between people, land, energy, and shared purpose. The design reflects the movement of energy across the lands while also representing the relationships that make this work possible. Flowing lines suggest shared pathways, showing how communities come together, support one another, and move forward as one.

The logo also honours the eight First Nations and reflects a shared beginning shaped by vision, leadership, and responsibility. It represents guidance and light, reminding communities of the strength carried when Nations move forward together.

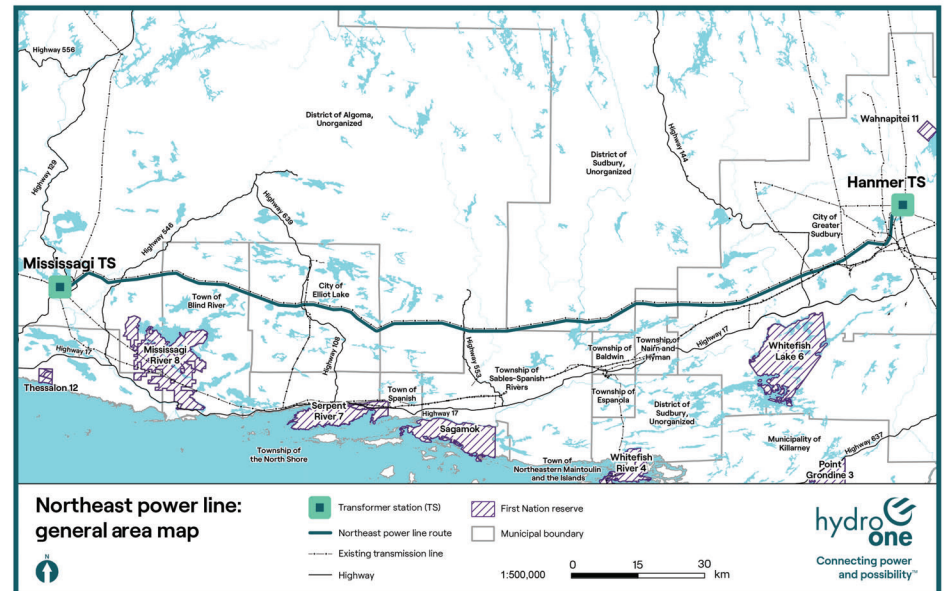
The colours of the logo are inspired by the northern lights, capturing a sense of movement, vitality, and possibility. The palette represents energy, growth, opportunity, and optimism for future generations, while also creating an identity that feels engaging and connected to youth.

**“This logo belongs to all of us.
It carries our story—and together,
we will continue to give it life.”**

Project update: Northeast Power Line

The draft Environmental Report was shared with First Nation partners in February 2026 for review and input. You can read it here: www.hydroone.com/about/corporate-information/major-projects/northeast-power-line The feedback received has been critical for refining the project and ensuring community perspectives inform decision-making.

The final Environmental Report is expected to be posted in July 2026.



Community updates

February 2026:

Chiefs and Leads meeting and Cooperation and Support Agreement signing ceremony

From February 24 to 25 in Sault Ste. Marie, the Chiefs and technical leads from each community met with WOCC and Hydro One for two days of discussion and collaboration. WOCC and Hydro One provided updates on the projects, the 2025 field season and upcoming 2026 field season opportunities.

The partners also held a signing ceremony for a Cooperation and Support Agreement for the projects. A highlight of the signing ceremony was a pipe ceremony led by Leroy Bennett. This agreement sets the framework for collaboration on the projects, including how consultation and engagement will work and opportunities for First Nation procurement, skills training and construction monitoring.



January to May 2026: Vegetation management information sessions

Hydro One and WOCC delivered seven information sessions in communities on how vegetation such as trees will be managed in the transmission line corridor. Hydro One and WOCC described what vegetation is compatible and incompatible with the height of the transmission lines and the mix of methods Hydro One uses to best manage vegetation. Hydro One does not aerial spray nor use glyphosates. If you are interested in more information or a session on vegetation management in your community, please reach out to your community's Project Engagement Coordinator.



May 2026: Council of Elders spring gathering

Members of the WOCC Council of Elders gathered with WOCC and Waasmoowin General Partnership Board of Directors in Mississauga First Nation for a spring gathering. The gathering provided an opportunity to conduct a spring ceremony for both projects and update the Council of Elders on the projects' progress. The Council of Elders also shared thoughts regarding the future direction of WOCC beyond the transmission line projects and discussed opportunities to continue strengthening collaboration among the eight partner First Nations.

Project Engagement Coordinators

If you want to get involved in the projects, reach out to your community's Project Engagement Coordinator.

Wahnapiatae First Nation:
Lili Doughy

Atikameksheng Anishnawbek:
Robert Paishegwon and Ashley Nootchtai

Whitefish River First Nation:
Mike Jacko

Sagamok Anishnawbek:
Evan O'Leary and Nikitha Jithu

Serpent River First Nation:
John Wiitala

Mississauga First Nation:
Ryan Tessier and Keith Sayers

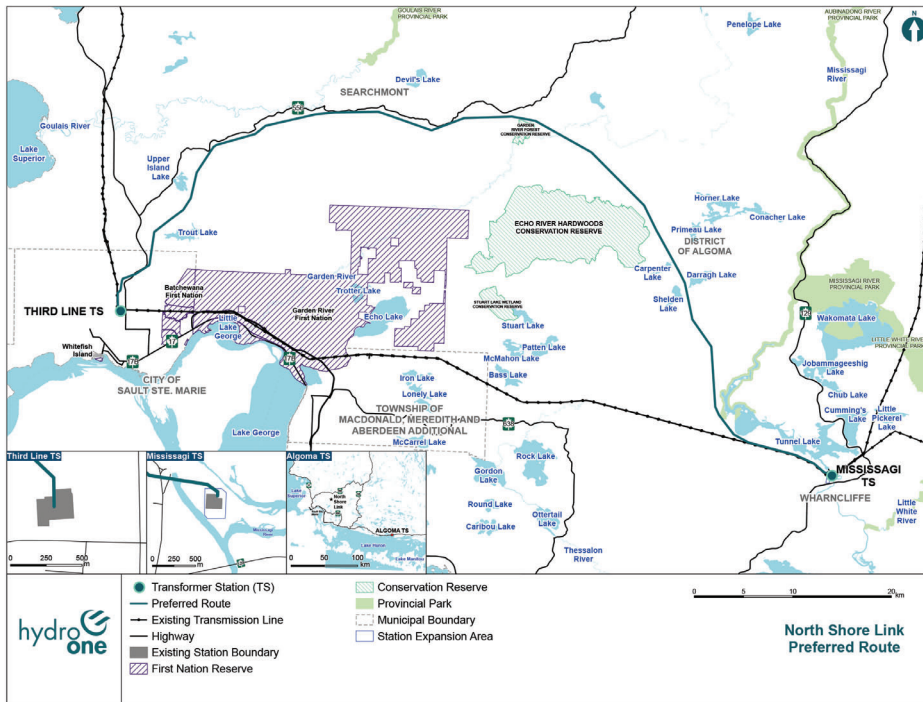
Thessalon First Nation:
Robert Simon Jr

Batchewana First Nation:
Jim Tait and Juliana Lesage-Corbiere

Project update: North Shore Link

Hydro One posted the draft Environmental Study Report for a 30-day review period from May 11 to June 12. The report was informed by consultation with First Nations and First Nation review and feedback on all materials. You can read the report or a summary of its highlights here: www.hydroone.com/about/corporate-information/major-projects/north-shore-link Feedback on the draft report will inform the final document, which will be posted publicly in September 2026.

Hydro One has multiple consultants working along the North Shore Link corridor for both Archaeology and Species at Risk. If you are interested in participating, please reach out to your community's Project Engagement Coordinator.



Building together through partnership

In 2022, Hydro One and First Nation partners introduced a new way of working together: the **First Nation Equity Partnership Model**. This model enables First Nations the opportunity to purchase a 50 per cent ownership stake in all new, large transmission projects valued at more than \$100 million. This creates real partnerships where we work together to build critical infrastructure by sharing in the benefits and project development opportunities.

What this partnership means:

- **Shared ownership**
First Nations invest in a 50 per cent equity stake.
- **Opportunities for communities**
Jobs, training and local procurement.
- **Long-term benefits**
Sustainable revenue and investment opportunities.
- **A voice at the table**
Early and ongoing involvement in planning and decisions.
- **Trust and respect**
Building lasting relationships.

