



WATAYNIKANNEYAP

# Monthly Project Newsletter

Provided by Valard



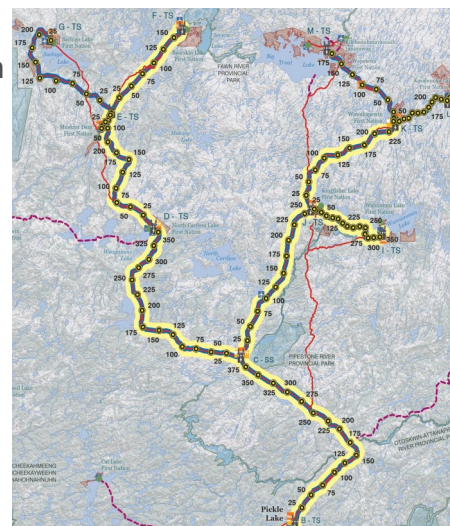
January 2022, Issue #223

English Version





Valard Construction was selected by Wataynikaneyap Power to provide engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) solutions for the Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission Project in Northwestern Ontario, Canada.

The scope of work on the Project consists of EPC services for more than 1,600 kilometres of transmission and distribution infrastructure ranging in voltage from 25 kV to 230 kV and 22 substations. Valard created this newsletter to provide regular updates on construction activities for the 24 First Nation owner communities.



**Three-Month Lookahead – Field Activities**  
**Proposed schedule as of January 15, 2022**  
**Period: January 1, 2022 to March 31, 2022**  
**Note: Subject to change based on field conditions.**

## Group 2 – Transmission Lines

Activity		Detail
 Materials to construct camps being moved by heavy machinery	<b>Camp Mobilization and/or Installation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pickle Lake operational as of Winter 2020</li> <li>North Caribou Lake Camp operational as of Fall 2021</li> <li>Kingfisher Lake Camp operational as of Winter 2021</li> <li>Muskrat Dam Camp operational</li> <li>Kasabonika Camp operational</li> </ul>
 Heavy machinery for geotechnical investigations	<b>Survey</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set survey control points (Starting activity of all survey operations)</li> <li>Flag Right-of-Way (ROW) clearing boundaries</li> <li>Measure existing transmission line heights</li> <li>Locate existing underground utilities</li> <li>Work area               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Pickle Lake to Pipestone</li> <li>* Pipestone to Kingfisher Lake First Nation</li> <li>* Pipestone to North Caribou Lake First Nation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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## Group 2 – Transmission Lines

Activity		Detail
 <p>Cleared Right of Way near Pipestone</p>	<p><b>Clearing and Access</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearing and Access development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Falling, raking and piling of trees</li> <li>* Installing/removing watercourse crossings</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Work area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Pickle Lake to Pipestone, Pipestone to Kingfisher Lake First Nation, Pipestone to North Caribou Lake First Nation, North Caribou Lake First Nation to Muskrat Dam First Nation, and Muskrat Dam First Nation to Bearskin Lake First Nation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p>Helicopter during tower erection</p>	<p><b>Construction</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geotechnical (soil analysis) investigation by test pitting and drilling of boreholes</li> <li>• Tower foundation installation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Excavating, Rock drilling</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Assembly of steel towers in assembly yards and on ROW (Right-of-Way)</li> <li>• Erection of assembled towers by crane and helicopter</li> <li>• Installing grounding rods and wires that equipment will connect to</li> <li>• Stringing of wire conductor and fibre-optic wire</li> <li>• Work area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Pickle Lake to Pipestone, Pipestone to Kingfisher Lake First Nation, Pipestone to North Caribou Lake First Nation, North Caribou Lake First Nation to Muskrat Dam First Nation, &amp; Muskrat Dam First Nation to Bearskin Lake First Nation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p>Pipestone River</p>	<p><b>Environment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In advance of and during construction activities, watercourses and environmentally sensitive areas are flagged and monitored; focusing on erosion, sediment control and spill responses</li> <li>• Environmental monitoring of foundation, assembly, erection and stringing crews</li> <li>• Environmental incident reporting and associated cleanup</li> <li>• Caribou Plot Surveys conducted with Giiwedini Environmental</li> <li>• Work area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Pickle Lake to Pipestone, Pipestone to Kingfisher Lake First Nation &amp; Pipestone to North Caribou Lake First Nation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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## Group 2 – Substations

Activity		Detail
 <p>Cleared work area</p>	<b>Substation Survey/Clearing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Flagging and inserting stakes in the ground to outline work area</li><li>• Substations work area:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* D (North Caribou Lake First Nation)</li><li>* E (Muskrat Dam First Nation)</li><li>* F (Bearskin Lake First Nation)</li><li>* I (Wunnumin Lake First Nation)</li><li>* J (Kingfisher Lake First Nation)</li></ul></li></ul>
 <p>Construction status of substation J (Kingfisher Lake First Nation)</p>	<b>Substation Construction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Civil and foundation construction</li><li>• Substations work area:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* I (Wunnumin Lake First Nation)</li><li>* J (Kingfisher Lake First Nation)</li></ul></li></ul>
 <p>Construction status of substation D (North Caribou Lake First Nation)</p>	<b>Substation Construction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Structural and Electrical Construction</li><li>• Substations Work Area:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* D (North Caribou Lake First Nation)</li><li>* E (Muskrat Dam First Nation)</li><li>* F (Bearskin Lake First Nation)</li><li>* J (Kingfisher Lake First Nation)</li></ul></li></ul>

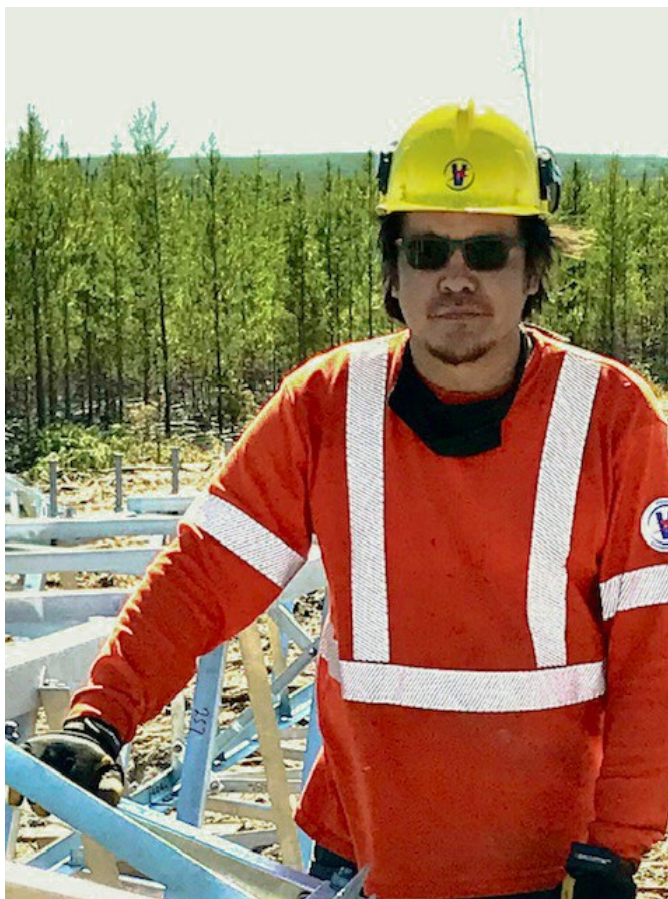
**For more activity details visit the website at [www.valard-watay.com](http://www.valard-watay.com), or if you have any general inquiries about this newsletter, please contact Wataynikaneyap Power at [WatayInquiries@wataypower.ca](mailto:WatayInquiries@wataypower.ca).**



**BOOTS ON THE GROUND**—Locally hired crew members tell us what working on the Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission Project means to them!

### *MY TIGHT-KNIT CREW FEELS LIKE FAMILY*

**Warren Keeper**, Pikangikum First Nation



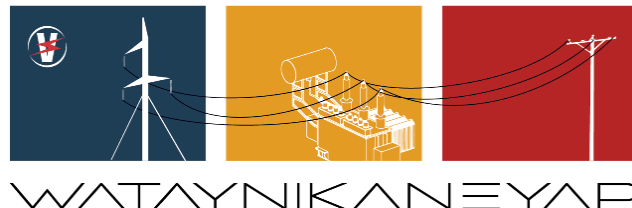
My experience so far with working with Valard has been good. I've worked with two crews since last year and both have been very supportive, encouraging, and most of all, very helpful in sharing work and personal experiences (balance work and personal issues).

Working with a tight-knit unit and long shifts tends to develop a brotherhood within a crew and with other crews. The most experienced will often take their time to show the new guys how the team operates and does things. Working with others in a tight unit often creates friendships and a "brother" mentality, and with that often comes humour, as you need spirit daily to have fun with your job.

My advice is to get an education, take advantage of training opportunities, be open to new experiences, and work hard to achieve what you want. Still, sometimes life leads you down a different path you originally intended, and that's not always a bad thing.

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## Valard is engaging with Participating First Nations to:

- \* Work with community and working groups for open lines of communication for COVID-19 updates with regards to travel and Community access directives
- \* Work with communities to identify camp locations and services available to support work camps
- \* Facilitate and coordinate opportunities for employment and procurement of goods and services with communities and working groups
- \* Provide notification of encounters with sensitive wildlife such as caribou sightings to communities near the encounter
- \* Provide notification of field work associated with monitoring caribou permanent survey plots throughout the project area
- \* Provide the Chief and Council with any additional work packages and maps in their Homeland area, includes: Permit to Take Water, Helicopter Pads and any additional camp locations if required
- \* Provided Power Mobile Equipment (PME) training for employees

Valard lent the community of North Caribou Lake First Nation a light-tower for their security checkpoint and are repairing a second to be delivered.



Project employees during a work presentation



A piece of heavy machinery used on the project

## Valard Indigenous Relations Team:

The Valard Indigenous Relations Team consists of the following members for the Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission Project and can be contacted at: [IndigenousRelations@valard.com](mailto:IndigenousRelations@valard.com):

- \* **Blaine Collett**—Sr. Director Indigenous Relations
- \* **Terrance Bob**—Indigenous and Stakeholders Relations Liaison
- \* **Randal Courchene**—Indigenous and Stakeholders Relations Liaison
- \* **Blaine Paul**—Indigenous and Stakeholders Relations Liaison
- \* **Amber McGrandle**—Indigenous Relations

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## Health and Safety

- \* **Valard is following the most up to date medical advice provided by federal and provincial government in its own measures to help limit the spread of Covid-19.**
- \* Ongoing Covid-19 screening program, camp inspections, program audits, response drills and Valard Covid-19 Vaccination program for eligible employees
- \* Hazard analysis and control planning every day
- \* Development, implementation and monitoring of safe work procedures
- \* Project onboarding, orientation and training/development of workers and subcontractors
- \* Emergency preparedness and planning, mock emergency drills completed
- \* Joint Health and Safety Committee Involvement
- \* Promotion of Project's Alcohol & Drug Policy, Maintenance Support Security Program and Employee Assistance Program.
- \* Security Protocols implementation and monitoring
- \* Fall Protection and Rescue Planning for tower climbing Best Practices



## Employment Opportunities

- \* Valard Construction invites members of the Participating First Nations to apply for the following positions.

### Administrative Assistant

Assemblers

Burn Crews

Class A Driver

Community Support Partner

Drafting Technician

Emergency Medical Responder

Environmental Monitor

Excavator Operator

Foundations Labourer

### Fuel Truck Driver

General Foreperson/Construction Supervisor

Heavy Duty Technician

Journeyman Automotive Service Technician

Prep/Ground Work Subforeperson

Primary Care Paramedic

Project Assistant

Project Field QC

Project Safety Admin

Please forward resumes to: [watay-resumes@valard.com](mailto:watay-resumes@valard.com) and [projectjobs@oslp.ca](mailto:projectjobs@oslp.ca)  
For more updates please visit the Valard project website ([www.valard-watay.com](http://www.valard-watay.com)) or:  
Call: 807-345-2395

<https://www.facebook.com/watayproject>

<https://www.facebook.com/OpiikapawiinServicesLP>

<https://www.facebook.com/Wataynikaneyap-Power>

<https://www.oslp.ca/careers>—Please visit OSLP's site for a full list of available positions

**If you have any general inquiries about this newsletter, please contact  
Wataynikaneyap Power at [WatayInquiries@wataypower.ca](mailto:WatayInquiries@wataypower.ca).**