



Moose River Basin Hydro Power Opportunity

Welcome! Wachay!

Hello to all community members!

This newsletter is the first public update about an exciting new potential project, lead by Moose Cree First Nation (MCFN) and Taykwa Tagamou Nation (TTN).

The need for electricity is increasing.
Our two Nations have formed a Co-Planning Committee to explore the possibility of building new water-powered (hydroelectric) energy projects in the Moose River Basin.

Message from the Leadership

Working Together on Energy and Community Development

We are excited to introduce the community to this process. The Volume 1 Newsletter will introduce you to the Co-Planning Committee, and share the project background, work so far, and plans of what's to come.

This process is **NOT** driven by an outside group. **It is led by MCFN and TTN.**

Chiefs Wesley and Archibald emphasize that this initiative is about energy sovereignty, ownership, community benefits and environmental stewardship. Both communities are committed to open dialogue and transparency with their members as the process unfolds.

What is this project about?

Growing Demand for Electricity

In 1993, Ontario committed to co-planning with First Nations for any hydro development in the Moose River Basin (north of Highway 11). In December 2023, the Co-Planning Committee was formed to fulfill this commitment - ensuring First Nations lead the decision-making process for potential hydro projects.

Ontario needs more electricity, and our region, which is home to the Moose River Basin, has the potential to create a lot of it, enough to power hundreds of thousands of homes.

This growing demand of electricity presents an opportunity for MCFN and TTN to **lead and own hydro development projects in our region.**

Opportunity and Commitment

The Co-Planning Committee is committed to maintaining the following:

- ▶ This is a First Nations-led process.
- ▶ No development will occur without the consent and approval of MCFN and TTN.



Our deep connection to this land is why we want to ensure decisions about its future are made by us, for us.

What is this project about?

The Moose River Basin

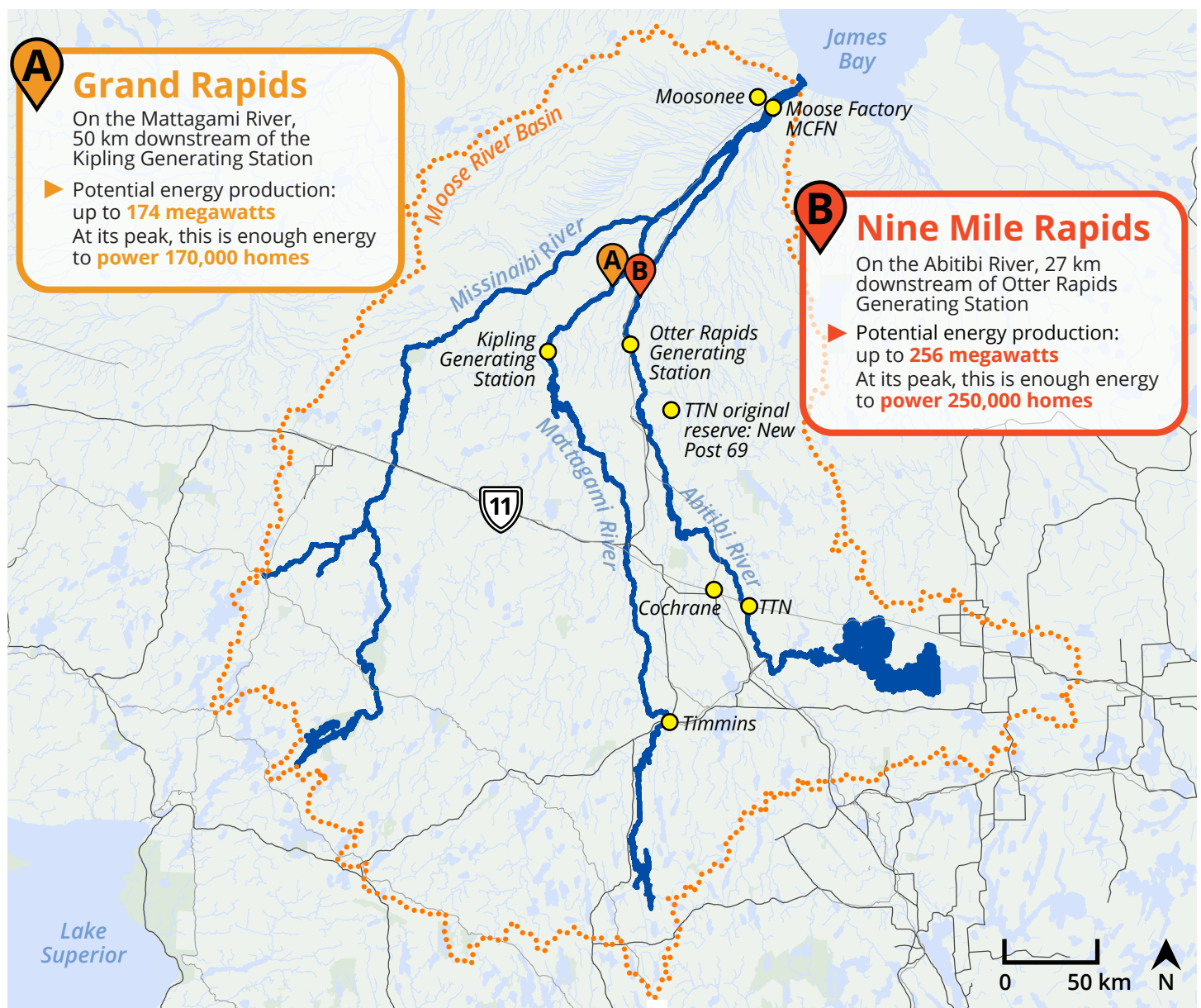
The Moose River Basin is fed by the Lower Mattagami and the Abitibi Rivers, flowing northwards from the Kapuskasing and Smooth Rock Falls areas.

Though these rivers have potential for additional hydro power potential, this project isn't just about building dams.

It's about making sure MCFN and TTN members lead every step, and that nothing moves forward without your support and approval.

Estimates suggest up to 1250 megawatts of additional energy production could be developed through future construction of new generating stations.

Learn About the Potential Sites



Meet the Co-Planning Committee

The Co-Planning Committee includes four members, and one co-lead from each community:



Moose Cree First Nation

- ▶ **Derek Chum** (*co-lead*)
- ▶ Bert Wapachee
- ▶ Norm Hardisty
- ▶ Gary Innes
- ▶ Isaiah Moore



Taykwa Tagamou Nation

- ▶ **Candice Tourville** (*co-lead*)
- ▶ John Archibald
- ▶ Stan Sutherland
- ▶ Wayne Ross
- ▶ Jara Archibald

The committee operates under a **Terms of Reference** that outlines how both communities come together and make recommendations to leadership.

These terms include:

1 Identifying potential partners for hydro development in the Moose River Basin

2 Defining terms and conditions for hydro development

3 Evaluating environmental impacts and project alternatives

4 Identifying preferred sites for waterpower development

5 Supporting environmental assessments

6 Guiding benefit distribution between MCFN, TTN and partners

7 Clarifying roles and responsibilities for each community

MCFN and TTN will **lead and own** the hydro development projects.

The committee has recommended exploring hydro opportunities with Ontario Power Generation (OPG) as a partner-in-principle, given their experience and existing relationships with both communities.

The Co-Planning Committee meets monthly and is supported by capacity funding agreements with OPG.

Community outreach so far

Engagement Highlights

The Co-Planning Committee is committed to transparent and inclusive engagement. During early community engagement events, members raised important questions about water levels, hydro costs, revenue sharing and infrastructure needs. They also emphasized the importance of engaging all members in the territory.

Key community engagement milestones within the MCFN and TTN communities include:

2024

May 28

Chief Wesley introduced the initiative in his report to MCFN members

June

Informal open house at the MCFN complex in Moose Factory

September 16 - 17

In-person sessions at the Council Chambers and EPR building

September 18

TTN Community Information Session

November 13 - 14

Community meetings at the Elders Centre and Community Hall in Moose Cree

November 27

TTN Community Information Session

2025

March 19

TTN Annual General Meeting

June 25

TTN Community Information Session
(virtual option available)

September 12

TTN Annual General Meeting

October 7

Skilled Trades Readiness Info Session

What's next for communications?

Community members will have access to the information they need to make informed decisions about whether hydro development in the Moose River Basin should proceed.

Future engagement will include:

- ▶ **Sharing results from field studies**
- ▶ **Gathering feedback on priorities and concerns for possible hydro development**
- ▶ **Providing updates through in-person events, newsletters and social media**
- ▶ **Web launch: Watch for more information on <https://taykwatagamou.com/> and <https://www.moosecree.com/>**
- ▶ **Logo competition**
- ▶ **Events will take place at the community halls and meals will be provided!**

Upcoming community meetings:

December 9, 2025

Taykwa Tagamou Nation

12pm -1 pm

5pm -7pm

December 11, 2025

Moose Cree First Nation

12-3pm

What's happening

Field Studies and Capacity Building



Planning for Environmental and Technical Studies

To better understand the history of the land, the committee supported hiring consultants to conduct baseline studies:



Cultural (Archaeology):
Woodland Heritage Northeast



Plants and Animals (Terrestrial):
Beacon Environmental



Fish and Bugs (Aquatic):
North/South Consultants Inc.

These studies began in spring 2025 and will continue into fall, with a second round planned for 2026. Two years of baseline data collection will be done for the Moose River site selection process.

What we learn will help understand environmental and cultural impacts in any future hydro facilities.

Studies will support predictions of potential impacts, and we will understand how to develop measures to manage, lessen, or eliminate them.

The committee has involved and hired community members to **ensure traditional knowledge and concerns are reflected**. They also trained and hired MCFN and TTN members as Environmental Field Monitors.

In August 2025, KGS Group was hired as the owner's engineer to lead preliminary design work, providing technical guidance on project performance, cost, and schedule. KGS brought on First Nations Engineering Services and Scatliff + Miller + Murray (SMM) for planning and community engagement work.

Working partnerships

Relationships with Ontario and industry

On April 9, 2024, Chiefs from MCFN and TTN, OPG leadership, and Ontario's Minister of Energy, Stephen Lecce, made a joint announcement in support of the Co-Planning initiative. The Minister and the province have expressed strong support, recognizing the project's potential to help meet Ontario's growing energy needs.

The Co-Planning Committee is also in discussions with the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) about future transmission infrastructure. Both organizations have expressed support for the Co-Planning approach.

Next steps - looking ahead

The Co-Planning Committee will continue to:



Provide regular updates to Chiefs, Councils and members



Balance considerations for technology, the environment, and culture



Ensure future decisions are guided by **community consent through a ratification vote** (Summer 2026)

Stay connected

Where to find project updates

Updates will continue through:

- ▶ newsletters
- ▶ community meetings
- ▶ direct engagement sessions

We encourage all members to stay involved and share their thoughts, questions and hopes for how these projects can support **community well-being and energy self-determination**. We look forward to hearing from you.

Watch for information to be shared on the MCFN and TTN websites.

ART OPPORTUNITY

Are you creative, or love to draw?
A logo design competition is coming soon.
Stay tuned for details!



Anderson, R. (2022) Sunset on the Moose River, flickr. Available at: https://sunrise.maplogs.com/cochrane_district_on_canada.17810.html.

Thank you! Miigwetch!

Thank you for reading and for being part of this important conversation.

For questions or comments, please contact us at **mrcoPlanning@taykwatagamou.com**

Stay tuned for more updates,
your involvement makes all the difference!

Watch for more information on <https://taykwatagamou.com/> and <https://www.moosecree.com/>