



Improving Communities...Changing Lives

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# Recognition Awards

## Housing Innovation Showcase

### Kingfisher Lake First Nation

We are featuring Kingfisher Lake First Nation's Bill Morris in the Housing Innovation Showcase because Bill is striving to better himself, and his Community, through professional development and is working to become a Housing Inspector in the remote North, a role which is not typically staffed by a First Nation member in this area. It is in this way that Bill is working to *Improve Communities & Change Lives*.



Biography: Bill Morris of Kingfisher Lake First Nation has been working overtime to update his skills. Bill has worked in construction as a plumber for well over ten years. Bill received his first plumbing training through the Independent First Nations Alliance from Mr. Larry Claus. During this time Bill was also working with NDL Construction installing the water and sewer servicing in Muskrat Dam First Nation.

Bill has also worked in law enforcement as a First Nations Constable. His present goal is to provide housing inspection services with Shibogama Technical Services for his own and the neighboring Shibogama Communities.

With support from his Community and Shibogama Technical Services, Bill has completed the OBOA's Plumbing Inspectors course and an OBOA OBC Part 9 course and has attended an Operator-in-Training workshop in Dryden for the operation of Water Treatment Plants.

## **Long Lake #58 First Nation**

Long Lake #58 First Nation, as a whole has drastically changed since the development of the Housing Authority in the community. Not only has the collection of rent begun, but the quality of living has also improved significantly.

Also, the development of housing policies and by-laws, is an on-going process, that should be commended as well.

*Excerpt taken from Darren Bananish's, Housing Manager, Long Lake #58 Presentation at the Northern Housing Conference:*

"Today I am going to discuss the success story of my community of where it is today and how we got to this point. If truth were known it is the cooperation of everything and everyone contributing in the same direction in order to improve our community.

The best way for me to describe these changes to you my fellow peers is to give a brief summary into the ways and means of our change. I found three major factors that effected our community changes, they are as follows:

The 1<sup>st</sup> step is getting the community to see the importance of housing and why it is necessary to accept that HOUSING IS A COMMUNITY ISSUE I found this to be the most important issue if any housing administration wants to be successful in their goals and endeavors.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> step would be the Chief & Council Commitment to see the housing infrastructure follow through and to assist in vouching for the By-law and policies in the housing infrastructure. I also witness the determination and perseverance of my government chief & Council to access capital dollars in order for Long Lake #58 First Nation community members to have sustainable housing.

The last step but not the least would be our housing administration, what they require is to be committed to their job and their lifestyles.

It is the combination of all these commitments from our communities' members and our Chief & Council and staff which makes Long Lake #58 F.N. The Housing Authority is working and heading towards a promising future for years to come.

Of what I could add from my perspective as the Housing Manager of Long Lake #58 F.N is that it is important not to think that this is a selfish job but a job that will help your community to improve itself and to help our future grandchildren to have homes that they can move into, I also found in my working environment that some days it takes a champion within yourself to succeed.

It is real commitment from yourself to see your community succeed."

## **FORT SEVERN CREE NATION**

### An “alternate” to housing / Fort Severn style

The Fort Severn First Nation is the most northerly settlement in the Province of Ontario. (On the shores of the Hudson Bay) At the edge of the tree line and about six miles from the mouth of the Severn River.

Access to Fort Severn via air, is about 450 miles (725 kilometers) northeast of Sioux Lookout, Ontario. Air freight from Pickle Lake, winter road freight via Gillam, Manitoba and/or barge freight from Moosonee, Ontario.

The second annual First Nations Northern Housing Conference, as part of its theme “Improving Communities ... Changing Lives” ; has initiated a “Recognition Award” to showcase housing innovations with-in the First Nations communities.

Fort Severn has a current housing stock of 112 with four additional houses under construction this year (scheduled completion - March 2004). As in all First Nations Communities, Fort Severn recognized the housing demands that are being placed on the Community and its peoples.

It is Fort Severn’s approach and “timely” development of a “working alternate” to housing; that is being showcased and presented a “Recognition Award”

Alternate housing that has addressed ; long term planning, training of related building trades skills (sub-contractors), cost and quality control (construction supervisor) and heating costs.

Alternate housing that has resulted in adopting “alternate construction techniques”:

- Foundation types suitable to permafrost conditions.
- Clear span floor systems, vapour barrier details & metal roofing.
- “Emercore” insulated wall panel system (winter construction)
- Heat recovery ventilators as standard equipment.

## **FORT SEVERN CREE NATION (con't)**

Picture Taken by Robert Thomas



Building - Historic House

This building was one of the first buildings constructed in the community. It was used as a 2 family home.

Today it is used as a storage shed and will be marked as a historical house.



Band Office  
December 1999



Aerial view of  
Fort Severn Community  
June, 1999