Henvey Inlet Wind Project Creating Jobs, Boosting Local Economy

Construction is well underway on the Henvey Inlet Wind project located near Highway 69 at Henvey Inlet First Nation (HIFN).

In 2014, the Nigig Power Corporation - Henvey Inlet First Nation’s development corporation - partnered with Pattern Development to jointly develop the Henvey Inlet Wind project. Henvey Inlet Wind is the first renewable energy project ever developed under a First Nation’s land code. Construction began in 2017 and will continue into 2019.

The project is a one-of-a-kind venture in Ontario. As the largest wind project in the province - and the largest First Nation project in Canada - Henvey Inlet Wind will create over 800 jobs onsite during peak construction and is expected to generate more than $10 million annually for HIFN once operational.

As part of the project, a transmission line is being built to bring energy from the wind project site to the Hydro One Network in Parry Sound. The generated energy will be fed into the power grid and will produce enough clean energy to power 100,000 homes across the province every year.

The route for the transmission line will run from Henvey Inlet First Nation along the Highway 69 corridor in some areas. Drivers will see laydown yards along areas of Highway 69 from Bekanon Road going south to Parry Sound.

Frank Davis, Country Head for Pattern Development, believes the project is an incredible investment in the community. “The Henvey Inlet Wind project represents a rare opportunity to forge new and exciting partnerships with First Nations and will contribute significant economic development to the region, furthering our goal of transitioning the world to clean, renewable energy,” Davis said.

To find the latest construction updates on this project, please visit the “Latest News” section of our website at: www.henveyinletwind.com

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100,000

Produces enough clean energy to power 100,000 Ontario homes.

10,000,000

Generates more than $10M for HIFN to invest in their economy.

200,000

Offsets 770,000 tonnes of CO₂, equivalent to taking 200,000 cars off the roads.

24,000

Conserves enough water to meet the needs of about 24,000 people.

When compared to coal-fired generation.
Henvey Inlet Wind in the Community:

We care about our region and continue to play an active role in supporting and investing in our community.

We proudly support:

» Henvey Inlet First Nation’s 15th Annual Traditional Pow Wow
» 6th Annual Rattlechild Sundance
» Wiigwaas Youth Camp
» Shawanaga First Nation Traditional Pow Wow
» Robinson Huron Treaty Gathering at Shawanaga First Nation
» Henvey Inlet First Nation Day Care

If you have any suggestions for community sponsorships or local causes we should support, please contact: (855) 464-9872, or by email: info@henveyinletwind.com

Harvesting the Wind for a More Prosperous First Nation

The Henvey Inlet Wind project will create many economic benefits for the Henvey Inlet First Nation and surrounding region. In addition to the direct and indirect job opportunities, additional spin off benefits will be gained from Henvey Inlet Wind’s revenues. How the profits are used will be solely up to the Band, meaning the Chief, Council and the Membership collectively.

Possibilities include:
» Expanded Band services, especially in areas of: Health, Education, Elder Services and Support, Youth Services and Support, Language Instruction and Retention, and Housing;
» Reinvestment in new research and development, and business development and expansion;
» Payments directly to Band Members as a “dividend”; and
» Subsidized hydro bills.

PowerTel is on the Job Building the 104 KM Transmission Line

PowerTel has started construction on the 230 kV transmission line that will harness the power created from Henvey Inlet Wind.

PowerTel is a leading high voltage contractor, having constructed thousands of kilometres of powerline throughout Canada and the United States.

Portions of the transmission line will be constructed on Reserve lands of Magnetawan First Nation and Shawanaga First Nation.

You may notice entrance access points along Highway 400 from the Woods Road area to Henvey Inlet First Nation. The entrances will allow PowerTel to access the transmission line at various points to ensure environmentally sensitive areas are not disturbed.

Three helicopters are also delivering over 1,000 poles and materials for the transmission line.

PowerTel and Henvey Inlet Wind are asking motorists to be extra cautious on area roads over the next several months as the transmission line is constructed.
Henvey Inlet Has Its Own Environmental Commissioner to Monitor Construction

SAVANTA Sustainability

Environmental firm Savanta has been hired by Henvey Inlet First Nation to act as the project’s Environmental Commissioner. The company was hired to ensure that construction work is compliant with the Environmental Stewardship Regime (ESR) and provincial and federal regulations.

The Environmental Commissioner is a key part of a new and innovative model for Henvey Inlet First Nation’s stewardship and management. The precedent setting model, created by Henvey Inlet First Nation, allows the community to make independent and informed decisions with respect to activities on their land.

Chief Wayne McQuabbie said, “I’m very proud of our Environmental Regime, which is the first one of its kind in Canada. It’s going to be a model for all First Nations how to do a major project.”

A key objective of Savanta’s work is enabling community skills development and training in environmental monitoring through the engagement of local First Nation members. Savanta is working on transitioning these roles and responsibilities to the community through job shadowing and training that is culturally relevant.

Savanta has also partnered with Henvey Inlet First Nation to help design and deliver a youth camp – Wiigwas. In the fall of 2017, youth aged 5 to 9 learned about culture, art and environmental sciences at Camp Wiigwaas. Youth enjoyed field trips, received traditional Anishinabek teachings, created birchbark art and beading, and strengthened their connections to Anishinabek culture.

Joseph Pitawanakwat - Leading the Traditional Medicines Walk.
AECOM: Keeping an Eye on the Environment During Construction

Henvey Inlet First Nation is home to many types of critters classified in the Species-At-Risk category, along with wetlands and other unique habitats.

AECOM is in charge of keeping an eye on the environment to ensure mitigation measures are being followed during construction activities.

Mitigation measures include ensuring the safety of wildlife, proper sediment control being in place, and monitoring construction activity to ensure that the Environmental Stewardship regime and all environmental permits are being observed.

Through partnerships with local First Nations, AECOM has hired many First Nations members to work as environmental monitors and qualified biologists.

Chief Wayne McQuabbie is thrilled to see so many local people on the job, “It’s great to see Anishinabek and other local citizens acting as stewards of the land and making sure environmental permits are being followed.”

About Henvey Inlet First Nation

An Anishinabek community, Henvey Inlet First Nation is signatory to the Robinson Huron Treaty.

HIFN is governed by one Chief and six Councillors and is under the First Nations Lands Management Act. The Act gives the government of HIFN the ability to control and administer its own lands, including the authority over environmental assessment permits, protection plans, leases, and land use and occupancy permits.

HIFN has recently ratified its Chi-Naaknigawin (Constitution). The Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin is founded on Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe and forms the Traditional Government of the Anishinabek Nation. The Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin is proclaimed by the Peoples identifying as the Anishinabek Nation, who in exercising Sovereign, Inherent, and Treaty Rights, now establish and empower the Anishinabek Nation Government as Traditional Government.

The Anishinabek Nation Government is guided by the principles and way of life of the seven sacred gifts given to Anishinabe, namely: Love, Truth, Respect, Wisdom, Humility, Honesty, and Bravery.
About Nigig Power Corporation

Nigig Power Corporation (Nigig) was established in 2010 and is wholly owned by Henvey Inlet First Nation. Ken Noble is CEO and President of the corporation, which is overseen by four board members and four advisors.

Nigig secured the largest feed-in tariff (FIT) contract in Ontario and is constructing the largest First Nation wind facility in Canada. The Henvey Inlet Wind project has a 20-year Power Purchase Agreement with the Independent Electricity System Operator.

Henvey Inlet First Nation is an Anishinabek community comprised of three separate reserve properties. Henvey Inlet Reserve No. 2 is on the northeast shore of the Georgian Bay, 90 km south of Sudbury and 71 km north of Parry Sound. French River Reserve No.13 is 11 km north of the Reserve No. 2 and includes Cantin Island. The Henvey Inlet Wind project is located on Henvey Inlet Reserve No. 2. There are about 900 enrolled Members of the Robinson-Huron Treaty band with approximately 200 of those residing on-Reserve.

About Pattern Development

Pattern Development is a leading developer of renewable energy and transmission assets. With a global footprint spanning Canada, the United States, Mexico and Japan, Pattern Development’s highly experienced team has brought more than 5,500 MW of renewable power projects to market.

Pattern Development’s mission is to transition the world to renewable energy by developing high-quality projects in an environmentally responsible manner and with respect for communities.

Pattern Development is a publicly listed independent power company that owns and operates renewable energy facilities and is currently the largest operator of wind energy in Canada.

Combined, they have expertise in all project stages: resource analysis, site development, power marketing, finance, construction, facility operations and asset management. It’s headquarters are in San Francisco, California and it’s Toronto office is comprised of professionals in law, business, finance, accounting and construction.
Pink Excavator

Motorists driving along highway 69 in the spring may have noticed a pink excavator. The machine belongs to E. Corbiere and Sons construction.

According to the Manitoulin Expositor, brothers Aaron Tyler and Curtis had it painted in memory of their mother, Vicky Lynn Corbiere who died in 2013 of breast cancer.

Curtis told the Expositor, “We always wanted to paint a piece of our equipment in her memory but there wasn’t enough time. We just needed the right opportunity and decided to paint the excavator.”

Once the machine has done its work in the Parry Sound area, it will head back to Manitoulin Island where E. Corbiere and Sons construction is based.

Construction

Miller Construction Group supplies the concrete that CER pours inside circular formwork once the reinforcing steel and turbine tower anchors have been installed, creating a foundation for the wind turbines to sit on.
Meet Our Team

Dmitri Ashawasegai, First Nation Liaison, CER

Henvey Inlet First Nation member Dmitri Ashawasegai is the First Nation Community Liaison for CER. His job is to assist with the recruitment and retention of Indigenous people employed on the wind project. He also shares Anishinabek culture and history through cultural awareness presentations that are given to all employees onsite. Leadership comes naturally to Dmitri as his experiences have included coordinating cultural wellness plans for Indigenous youth and families in Sudbury, and Community Mentoring in HIFN. He was also elected as a Councillor for his community.

Dmitri has been very fond of his job with CER on the wind farm. He has enjoyed sharing Anishinabek culture and history with workers. He says, “It is important that people involved in the project get an understanding of the area where they are working, the people who are from here, and how the project as a whole is culturally appropriate.”

Kevin Louch, Tulloch Engineer-In-Training (Parry Sound)

Life-long Parry Sound resident Kevin Louch is our Engineer-in-Training onsite. Employed by Tulloch, Kevin is excited about the opportunity to be a part of the largest wind project in Ontario. Louch says, “I think the project is a great opportunity for the surrounding communities to get involved with a major renewable energy project. It’s good to see the project teams have been working on extensively to help preserve the landscape, protect the environment and wildlife to lower its construction footprint.”

Maureen Kagagins, AECOM Environmental Monitor pictured working on WEC site

Whether she’s working on the transmission line or the wind project, Maureen Kagagins ensures subcontractors are accountable to the environment. The Anishinabek citizen of Henvey Inlet First Nation works as a Qualified Biologist for AECOM. Much of what Kagagins loves about her job is being in the bush: “I love being outside and being able to make sure the nesting birds and protected species are being looked after.”

Dianna Wheatley, Administrative Assistant, Nigig Power Corporation

Dianna Wheatley is a key member of our front line team who has been working on the Henvey Inlet Wind project since the beginning. Dianna is a Shawanaga First Nation band member as well as the Administrative Assistant for Nigig Power Corporation and she is responsible for managing all project inquiries out of our Nigig office. Through her work in the community, Dianna has seen first-hand the benefits of the project for the area: “It’s important to support my Anishinabek brothers and sisters of Henvey Inlet First Nation. Henvey Inlet Wind is the largest First Nation project in Canada. It’s a pleasure and a privilege to be a part of the development of this 300MW, eco-friendly project.”
Contact Us

We enjoy meeting with members of our community and are interested in hearing ideas on ways we can better collaborate and engage with the region. Please let us know if you have suggestions for community sponsorships or local causes that we could support.

For more information on the Henvey Inlet Wind project, please contact info@henveyinletwind.com or call (705) 857-5265.

Make sure to visit our website: www.henveyinletwind.ca.