



Beausoleil First Nation

Office of Council

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January 28th, 2026

Dear Membership,

RE: Niigaan Enaazhek Update

Chief and Council would like to provide an update regarding the current operational status of the Niigaan Enaazhek.

The vessel has been experiencing ongoing heating system issues since early fall. During the holiday shutdown, the system fully failed due to a loss of glycol, which was difficult to source but has now been obtained.

The vessel arrived from Duluth, United States, with several noted deficiencies. We are grateful that these items can be addressed here at home, particularly given the ongoing conflict in the United States. None of the deficiencies are critical to operations and will be resolved by Fraser Shipyard as the ferry transitions into service.

Repairs and assessments are ongoing, with Fraser Shipyard coordinating efforts alongside equipment vendors and contractors. While temporary measures have been taken to maintain heat and prevent further damage, additional issues were identified once temperatures began to rise. These repairs are now being addressed.

At this time, Fraser Shipyard continues to work closely with Beausoleil First Nation representatives to complete the required repairs as safely and efficiently as possible so the vessel can officially be put into full service.

In parallel, discussions and negotiations are ongoing with Transport Canada and Lloyd's Register of London regarding regulatory and operational requirements related to ferry operations. These include matters such as minimum safe manning, crew certification, and several items currently under review by Transport Canada. None of these items are expected to prevent the vessel from entering service and resolutions are anticipated by February 2026.

We are pleased to share that dredging is now complete, and once the Niigaan Enaazhek is fully operational, its ice-breaking capabilities will be demonstrated as intended.

Leadership continues to meet daily with Fraser Shipyard to ensure progress and accountability until the vessel is fully operational.

Chief and Council would also like to thank the ferry crews for their continued dedication in operating the Indian Maiden and ensuring essential transportation for our community. We also extend our appreciation to Arnold Jamieson Jr., Public Works and Transportation Manager, for his ongoing efforts and commitment throughout this process.

Thank you to membership for your patience and understanding. Further updates will be shared as they become available.

Miigwetch,

Beausoleil First Nation Chief and Council