

# Walgwan Center

The Walgwan Center in Gesgapegiag is not a detox center, it's a rehabilitation center.

"It's a rehabilitation center, in the sense of wanting to have a healthier way of life. A healthier way of being, and conducting one's life," said Natalie Clark, an outreach worker who began in January.

The center is capable of addressing a wide variety of issues, ranging from grief to substance misuse.

It is aimed at First Nation youth between 12 and 17 years old. Programs include a three-month in-center stay, a four-week prevention program, and in-community counseling.

It serves communities across Atlantic Canada and Quebec. At-

tempts are made to have the groups evenly split – half boys and half girls, as well as half English and half French.

There have been some changes at the center this year, and they're trying to make sure the communities are aware of them.

A big one for Listuguj, Eel River Bar and Gesgapegiag is access to Kayla Gedeon, the new Outpatient Counselor.

"She can go and counsel the youth in their respective communities," said Clark. "That's something that was needed."

The main program is the three-month stay at the center. Participa-

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Natalie Clark (left), an outreach worker, and Kayla Gedeon (right), the outpatient counselor with the Walgwan Center in Gesgapegiag. (PHOTO: Submitted)

## COURT

### Chaleur Terminals lawsuit on track for mid-March



The lawsuit filed by the MMS and Chief Scott Martin to prevent development of Chaleur Terminals Inc's tank farm will proceed on March 14 and 15. People are encouraged to attend and show support. (PHOTO: Adam Hodnett)

The application in the New Brunswick Court of Queen's Bench in Campbellton to stop the Chaleur Terminals Inc. project in Belledune will proceed on March 14 and 15. It has been delayed from the original date, Jan. 18.

People are encouraged to attend. The project could see up to 220 rail cars of oil per day pass along the Restigouche River to a tank farm in Belledune, where nearly a million barrels of oil could be held. The project was developing without proper consultation with the Mi'gmaq communities, says Troy Jerome, the Executive Director of the MMS.

The application was filed by the MMS on behalf of the communities it represents, as well as Chief Scott Martin personally. Both Chaleur Terminals Inc, and the province of New Brunswick are named as respondents.

Chaleur Terminals Inc has stated that it didn't want this delay. Jerome said nothing was filed as the original court date approached.

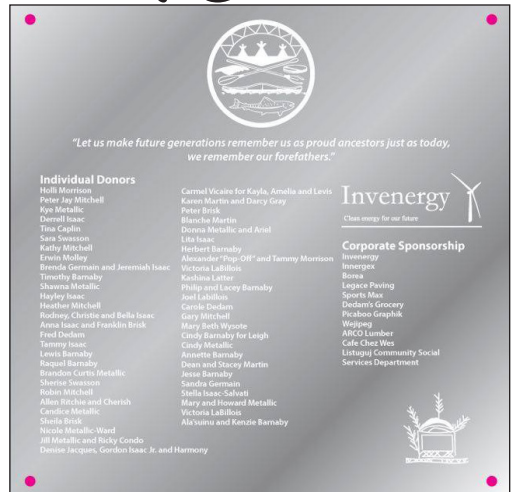
"We're trying to prepare a case, and it's hard to prepare a case when we don't know what they said," Jerome said.

Affidavits have been filed by experts, and the legal team continues to prepare.

"It seems like we're on track," Jerome said.

## COMMUNITY

### Playground



A plaque of all the donors that will be mounted on a boulder near the park in the spring. (PHOTO: Submitted)

Numbers have just been released for all the expenses and plans for the \$83,938.76 raised by the community, for the community playground.

The expenses are online at news.listuguj.ca. There is \$12,920.28 remaining, which will be used to buy infant seats for the swings, additional park benches, and a picnic table.

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# Walgwan

tion is entirely voluntary.

“It’s not boot camp, but it’s not a summer camp either,” Clark said

The days are jammed packed. Clark said many participants aren’t use to going to sleep at 10 p.m., but after their first week, they’re begging to go to sleep by 8:30 p.m.

Clark said the program is 90 per cent culturally based. An elder works in the building ev-

ery day, orchestrates ceremonies, and is always available to talk. The heavy focus on culture is also a recent development for the center, but again, it’s not forced on anyone.

“It’s something that we’ve seen that works,” Clark said.



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Representatives from the LMG engaged in discussions with Rene Arsenault (right), the Liberal representative from New Brunswick, and Remi Masse (center), the Liberal Representative from Quebec. The outcome of the meeting was extremely positive. Discussions ranged from point of sale tax to historical presence in New Brunswick and exercising rights to the land. (Photo: Mike Issac)

# Playground

The plan is to continue developing it in a family friendly way. But so far, everything that was planned was completed, before the snow fell.

“So in the spring, we’re just going to pick up where we left off and continue to develop it,” said Sheila Swasson.

In the short time before the snow, when the park was ready, kids were already using it regularly.

“One parent even told me that their kid is there every day, and he’s home with blisters on his hands from the monkey bars,” Swasson said. “It’s a good sign.”

Swasson hopes to build on the momentum generated by the community, that made the park possible. Ideas are already floating around for the next community project, but nothing is definitive yet.

“It’s really good to see that this project was a community initiative,” Swasson said. “People stepped up. They believed in the project, and they supported it 100%, and look where it got us.”



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# Walgwan Center

Visit [www.walgwan.com](http://www.walgwan.com) for more info



# Community Listings

## Careers

Careers for aboriginal persons – Post-Secondary Recruitment. Applications are being accepted. Check the LMG Facebook for the link.

## Post-Secondary Funding

The Post Secondary intent form must be filled out by all students looking for funding by Feb. 29th. If you need help, call 1-800-463-0906.

## Jobs

The LMDC has posted a list of 17 jobs in the area. Find the list on the Facebook page.

CONTACT: 418-788-1347

## Community Market

WHEN: Feb. 21  
WHERE: Bingo Hall  
TIME: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Feb. 18 is the deadline to reserve tables.

## EDITOR’S NOTE:

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