

# CASES PARTNERSHIP

COMMUNITY APPROPRIATE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SECURITY

## CASES Webinar Series:

**Wataynikaneyap Transmission Project**

**Northwestern Ontario, Canada**

**March 23rd 12-1pm MDT/CST ( 2-3pm EDT)**



The Wataynikaneyap Transmission Project is bringing grid connection to 17 remote communities. Wataynikaneyap Power is a licensed transmission company, regulated by the Ontario Energy Board, and majority-owned by a partnership of 24 First Nation communities in partnership with Fortis, Inc. and other investors. Once completed, the Watay Project would be the largest electric infrastructure project ever implemented to connect remote communities in Ontario, with electricity generation and distribution systems that are not currently connected to the provincial transmission grid. Construction began in the first quarter of 2020, and completion of the project is expected by the end of 2023.

**Join us on March 23rd to hear more about the Watay Project!**



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**PRESENTED BY: Margaret Kenequanash, CEO, Wataynikaneyap Power**

**INTRODUCED BY: Steve Sousa, CCO, Valard**

**Margaret Kenequanash** was appointed CEO of Wataynikaneyap Power (translation: Line that brings light) in August, 2017. Wataynikaneyap Power a licensed transmission company, equally owned by 24 First Nations in partnership with Fortis and other private investors to bring grid connection to the remote First Nations currently powered by diesel generators. Prior to becoming CEO, Margaret held the position of Executive Director of the Shibogama First Nations Council from 2005-2017. Margaret received the "Executive of the Year" award at the Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund (NADF) Business Awards in 2008 and the Emile Nakogee award for "Outstanding Leadership" presented by Nishnawbe Aski Nation in 2016. Prior to joining Shibogama, Margaret obtained her post-secondary education in business, notably achieving and receiving an Academic Honour Roll award. Margaret has a vast wealth of knowledge gleaned over the past 20 years in various high level positions, including being on the Sioux Lookout Municipal Council from 1990-1994. Margaret carries the distinction of being the first female Chief in her northern home community at North Caribou Lake First Nation when she was elected in 1996 and is well known and respected throughout First Nation communities, and government Ministries for her remarkable work in promoting a better quality of life, and opportunities for First Nation peoples.

**Steve Sousa** is the Chief Commercial Officer at Valard, responsible for the company's commercial division, business strategy, growth and positioning in the industry. During his tenure at Valard, Steve oversaw the successful award of Alberta's West Fort McMurray Transmission Project (WFMAC), in 2014. The WFMAC Project was, at that time, considered the largest engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) electrical transmission project ever awarded in North America. The successful incorporation of Indigenous workers into this project made Valard worthy of the Alberta's Top Employer of Indigenous Apprentices Award in 2018. Steve's role was also key during the negotiation and award of the Kingsvale Transmission Line Project, in British Columbia. This Project was executed through a partnership between Trans Mountain, Valard and the Lower Nicola Indian Band Development Corporation and it was the first electricity transmission line to be majority-owned, operated, maintained and financed by an Indigenous group in Canada.

**The presentation will be live through WebEx:**

**MARCH 23RD 12 -1pm MDT**

**Meeting link:** <https://usask.webex.com/usask/j.php?MTID=m7f4a7c48ab6f3db091be77d751d49eb7>

**Meeting number:** 145 876 6793

**Password:** casespartnership



**A recording will be made available on the CASES website:**

<https://renewableenergy.usask.ca/events/cases-webinar-series.php>