



# Winter Life on Site

**“Winter in Moosonee is not for the faint of heart,”** jokes Francesco Ritonnale, a superintendent on the Project. **“The weather is very cold. Snow can pile up as high as five feet, and strong winds can blow snow across the site, bringing challenges for the site team at Pomerleau.”**

Even though construction slows down in winter, the team is still busy every day. From January to mid March, the focus is on clearing snow, maintaining equipment, and getting the site ready for warmer weather when construction will start up again.

One big challenge is maintaining heat. Ground heaters, sometimes as many as ten at a time, are used to keep concrete, steel structures, and the stone base beneath from freezing. **“We provide insulation for construction,”** explains Francesco.

Machines need special care in the cold. Trucks and equipment are filled with antifreeze so they can run in freezing temperatures. Keeping generators and machines working takes a lot of time and effort.

Safety always comes first. Workers learn how to stay safe in cold weather and how to watch for frostbite. Warm shelters are placed close to work areas so workers can take breaks and warm up. Workers also wear thick clothing and warm, insulated safety gloves to protect their hands.



→ Francesco Ritonnale, Site Superintendent at Pomerleau in warmer temperatures

While the site may look quiet from the outside, there is a lot happening behind the scenes. Winter is a time for planning, organizing supplies, and getting ready so work can move quickly when spring arrives.

For Francesco, working on this Project stands out in a special way. He explains:

**“Moosonee has truly become a second home for me. After decades working on hospital and school construction projects internationally, the sense of community here really stands out. Whether it’s grabbing a coffee at Two Bay or connecting through everyday conversations, the warmth and support from the community have been amazing.”**



→ For Francesco, meeting curious students is always a highlight.

# Keeping the site clear, safe and heated through winter snow



The site team uses ground heaters to keep concrete, steel, and the ground beneath from freezing.

Tarps help keep snow and moisture away from critical surfaces.

# 7 Steps to Becoming an Apprentice

Families, caregivers, and Elders can help youth and others learn about skilled trades by talking together, asking questions and helping find the right support.

Follow the steps to become an apprentice on the WAHA Redevelopment Project and start building your future in the trades. **We're here to support you!**



## 1 Get Curious!

Do you like building, fixing, or making things? Talk to us at Pomerleau! We can give you information about skilled trades.

## 2



## Attend Career Fairs and Community Events

If you're in school, attend career fairs where you can talk to Pomerleau about available apprenticeships on the Project.

## 3 Be Ready to Apply

You must:

- Be at least 16 years old
- Have a Social Insurance Number (SIN)
- Get safety training if needed, like Working at Heights or WHMIS
- Make a short resume



## 4 Stay in School!

If you're in high school, you can join a program called **OYAP** [oyappaio.com](http://oyappaio.com).

You can also get hands-on experience through your high school **co-op program**.

Finished high school? You can enroll in a **college program** that helps you earn both a diploma and job hours.



## 5

## Get Connected

Attend events to connect with Pomerleau and our trades working on the Project.

Complete our Employment and Skills survey to get connected to opportunities with unions and our trade partners.

[surveymonkey.com/r/F7V6SL7](https://surveymonkey.com/r/F7V6SL7)

## 6 Learn More

Learn about what to expect as an apprentice at the **Skilled Trades Ontario** website [skilledtradesontario.ca/apprenticeship](http://skilledtradesontario.ca/apprenticeship) or **Skills Ontario** [skillsontario.com/fnmi](http://skillsontario.com/fnmi) to learn about different initiatives available to Indigenous youth.



## 7 Start Your Journey!

Begin your hands-on training on the **WAHA Redevelopment Project**.

Learn new skills, earn money, and build your future in the trades!



**Reach out to us!**  
[waha.information@pomerleau.ca](mailto:waha.information@pomerleau.ca)

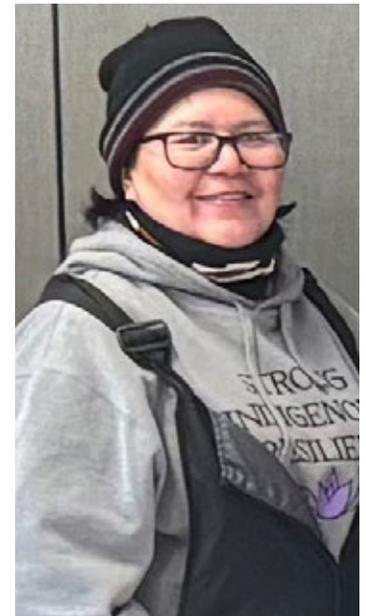
# Visiting students in Weenusk FN

In early January, we were on the road with WAHA, Northern College and Queen's University to visit students in Weenusk FN to talk about life after high school.



Students were introduced to a range of opportunities and pathways. It was a fun afternoon that ended with a meal with community members. Carol Achneepineskum, a teacher/mentor, explains why visits like this are important for her students:

**“Visits like this are important because students are connected to a variety of futures. Students are given real examples of what working in a trade as an apprentice looks like – on the job learning and the opportunity to earn a good wage while they learn.”**



→ Carol Achneepineskum, Teacher/Mentor



Wishing you a safe, healthy, and enjoyable winter. We look forward to connecting throughout the season!

## ENGAGEMENT DATES

- FEBRUARY 19 -22 → Raymond Butterfly Tournament
- FEBRUARY 23 – 25 → James Bay Career Fair Moosonee
- FEBRUARY 26 → Project Career Fair Fort Albany

**CONNECT WITH US!** For questions about the Project and for business opportunities and community involvement

@ waha.information@pomerleau.ca

f facebook.com/WAHA.Redevlopment.Project

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# WAHA Redevelopment Project at a Glance



## Project Overview

Based in northern Ontario, the WAHA Redevelopment Project is a transformative initiative to strengthen healthcare services for communities along Ontario's James Bay and Hudson Bay coasts.

**New Acute Care Hospital in Moosonee,** along with an Elder Care Lodge, visitor hostel, and staff accommodations

**New Ambulatory Care Centre** in Moose Factory

Once complete, these modern facilities will support WAHA in delivering exceptional healthcare that reflects and honours the communities we serve.

## Key Features

State-of-the-art hospital and care facilities

Spaces that respect and reflect Cree culture and traditions

Improved access to acute, ambulatory, and Elder care services

Modern infrastructure to support advanced medical technology and staff housing

## Project Timeline

Groundbreaking **JANUARY 2023**

Steel Structure Underway **2025-2026**

Target Completion **2030**



<https://www.waha.ca/redevelopment-project/>

[facebook.com/WAHA.Redevlopment.Project](https://facebook.com/WAHA.Redevlopment.Project)

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