

Remote First Nations in Northwestern Ontario to benefit from energy conservation kits

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A Wasaya Airways plane took off from Thunder Bay to deliver the first load of Energy Conservation Kits (ECK) to remote First Nation communities for the "Mana-cha-toon Wash-ti-ni-gun," or "Conserve the Light," Project on the morning of September 7.

This initiative is part of the Provincial Energy Efficiency and Conservation Measures for Aboriginal Communities (EEMAC) program launched in Thunder Bay at the Mana-cha-toon Wash-ti-ni-gun gathering last May attended by representatives from 65 First Nation communities. EEMAC is funded by the

Ontario Power Authority (OPA).

The first load of 1400 kits went to residents of Kasabonika Lake, Kingfisher Lake, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (Big Trout Lake), Weagamow (North Caribou) and Wunnumin Lake First Nations.

EEMAC Project Manager Charles Fox stated, "After these kits have landed, ECK delivery will roll out to the 23,000 on-reserve homes in over 100 communities across Ontario. Each kit includes easy-to-install compact florescent light (CFL) bulbs, faucet aerators, pipe wraps, fridge and freezer thermometers, a low flow shower head, an outdoor timer for Christmas lights and other devices that will

result in immediate reductions in energy use. Electricity conservation is critical for many remote communities because power is often provided by diesel generators that require fuel delivered by aircraft or winter roads, both expensive procedures."

In addition to the distribution of the ECK, five Ontario First Nation communities are undertaking community energy retrofits and benchmarking projects. Slate Falls First Nation is the closest of the five to Sioux Lookout.

First Nation communities in Northwestern Ontario receiving ECK include Bearskin Lake, Cat Lake, Deer Lake, Eabametoong, Fort Severn, Kasabonika Lake, Keewaywin, Kingfisher Lake,



Submitted Photo

An energy conservation kit.

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, Lac Seul, Mishkeegogamang, Muskrat Dam, Neskantaga, Nibinamik, North Caribou Lake, North Spirit Lake, Ojibway Nation of Lake, Saugeen, Sachigo Lake, Wabigoon Lake, Webequie and Wunnumin Lake.