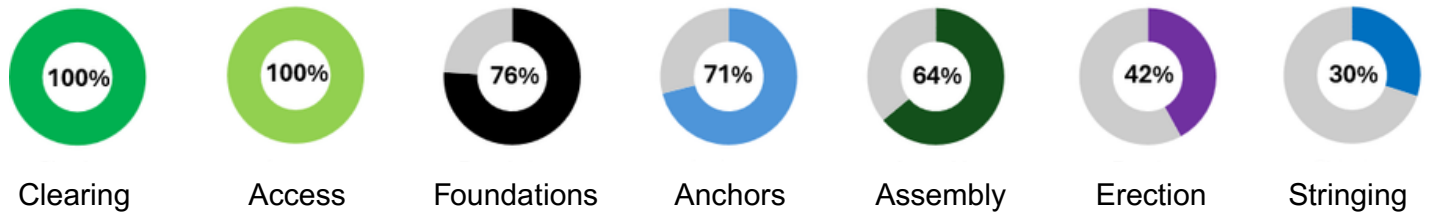


INSIDE THE WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

Construction Updates — February 2026

Progress continues on the Waasigan Transmission Line Project as crews prepare for spring and the arrival of longer, brighter days. As temperatures rise and snow begins to melt, winter access structures will be removed to help protect nearby watercourses and fish habitat while limiting erosion and sediment release. Winter road access will remain in place until the end of March to ensure crews can continue working safely.

Phase 1 Activities



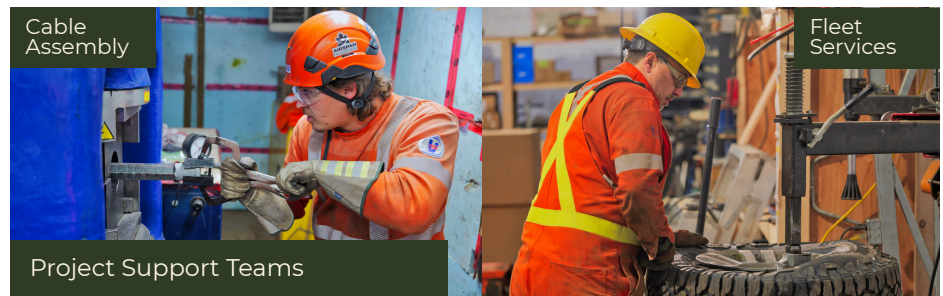
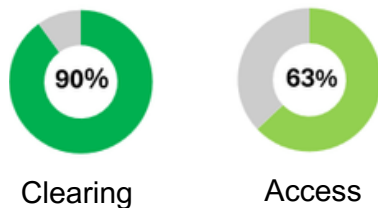
In Phase 1 of the project, crews continue to make steady progress. While primary clearing and access work are now complete, maintenance activities remain ongoing to remove snow for access, and addressing any remaining variances along the right-of-way.

Teams are also maintaining access roads behind active construction areas, while foundation work and ground testing continue. Other activities include tower assembly, installing grounding systems, erecting towers, and stringing the line as work continues towards Thunder Bay.



Tower Assembly

Phase 2 Activities



Cable Assembly

Fleet Services

Project Support Teams

In Phase 2 of the project, clearing is almost complete. Remaining work includes feller-buncher clearing, hand falling, and burning in the winter work areas, which will be finished before March 31 and ahead of fire season.

Access work is also underway, with ice bridges and watercourse crossings being installed and maintained until the end of the month. Crews are also preparing to begin foundation work, with ground testing underway at several locations including winter work zones, while survey work and environmental inspections continue.



Feller-Buncher Clearing:

A large forestry machine that grabs a tree, cuts it at the base, and gathers several trees together in a pile. It helps crews clear trees from an area much faster than doing it by hand.

Hand Falling:

Cutting down trees manually using chainsaws instead of a large forestry machine. It's usually done in areas where machines can't safely reach, such as steep slopes or environmentally sensitive areas.

INSIDE THE WAASIGAN TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

Camp Life & Employee Activity

Celebrating Employee Excellence



Michael Chaffey & Randi Onakanakis



Valard teams continue to celebrate excellence on the project while prioritizing safety, learning, and collaboration. In February, Randi Onakanakis, one of our block truck workers, received the Safety First Award for proactively clearing snow from access signs after heavy snowfall, improving visibility and helping drivers safely enter project access roads. In addition, Project Paramedic Dan Reilly delivered an informative AED demonstration during the All Hands Safety Meeting at the Sapawe camp, helping familiarize crews with these life-saving devices.

Connecting with the Community



Darcy Waboose and Maggie Kavanaugh

Valard Indigenous Relations Advisor, Maggie Kavanaugh, joined community members at the Lac Seul First Nation Annual Winter Pow Wow in celebration of culture, connection, and the drum. The event also gave Maggie the opportunity to reconnect with friends, including Councilor and drummer Darcy Waboose from Long Lake #58 First Nation, reinforcing Valard's commitment to strong, community-centred relationships.