



Mr Clayton Wetelainen

Chief,
Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation

Biography

Chief Clayton Wetelainen is the elected leader of Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (Treaty #3) in northwestern Ontario, serving as Chief since 2021. An Ojibway leader with a strong background in community development, he is known for advancing Indigenous self-governance and sustainable growth for his community.

Under Chief Wetelainen's leadership, Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation has undertaken several notable initiatives in environmental stewardship and development. He guided his community through a consent-based decision to serve as a willing host for Canada's first deep geological repository for used nuclear fuel, framing this project as an important responsibility to address now so it does not burden future generations. He ensured the process is grounded in Anishinaabe values and community consent, including the creation of an Indigenous-led environmental assessment process. Wetelainen also spearheaded landmark agreements with mining and energy firms (from gold to critical minerals), securing benefits like jobs, training, and infrastructure for his Nation while insisting that development respect the land and water.