

Press Release

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Resident of Sandy Lake First Nation Discusses Wildfire Evacuation

Sandy Lake First Nation, Ontario: In July 2025, approximately 300 residents of Sandy Lake First Nation returned home following a prolonged evacuation caused by a significant wildfire.

On July 16, 2025, Mary-Jean Cormier, host of Superior Morning on CBC Radio One, interviewed Ken Goodwin Jr., a resident of Sandy Lake First Nation. Mr. Goodwin spent 35 days away from his home as a result of the evacuation, including a long stay in Peterborough, Ontario.

During the interview, Mr. Goodwin expressed his gratitude to Peterborough's community members, who made the evacuees feel welcome. In particular, Mr. Goodwin praised the work of Trent Gervais, president and CEO of The Loomex Group Ltd., who oversaw the evacuation. "He was right there helping, right at the front lines, and that showed me that he cared for us," Mr. Goodwin told listeners. "I was so impressed by that, and it made our stay [not] seem that long."

Despite being in a very stressful situation, Mr. Goodwin stated that he had fun in Peterborough. In order to keep evacuees active, The Loomex Group planned several activities during their time away from home, including visits to Niagara Falls and the Toronto area.

"They made life really simple, and they treated us like kings," Mr. Goodwin said.

You can listen to the full interview on the CBC Listen website.

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