



2024-2025  
**Anishinabek Nation**  
Annual Report



Produced by the Anishinabek Nation

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# NGO DWE WAANGIZID ANISHINAABE ONE ANISHINAABE FAMILY

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(Preamble to the Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin-as adopted by Grand Council in June 2011)

**Debenjiged gii'saan anishinaaben akiing giibi dgwon gaadeni  
mnidoo waadiziwin.**

Creator placed the Anishinabe on the earth along with the gift of spirituality.

**Shkode, nibi, aki, noodin, giibi dgosdoonan wii naagdowendmang  
maanpii shkagmigaang.**

Here on mother earth, there were gifts given to the Anishinabe to look after; fire, water, earth and wind.

**Debenjiged gii miinaan gechtwaa wendaagog Anishinaaben waa  
naagdoonjin ninda niizhwaaswi kino maadwinan.**

The Creator also gave the Anishinabe seven sacred gifts to guide them.

They are: Zaagidwin, Debwewin, Mnaadendmowin, Nbwaakaawin,  
Dbaadendiziwin, Gwekwaadziwin miinwa Aakedhewin.

**Love, Truth, Respect, Wisdom, Humility, Honesty and Bravery.  
Debenjiged kiimiingona dedbinwe wi naagdowendiwin.**

Creator gave us sovereignty to govern ourselves.

**Ka mnaadendanaa gaabi zhiwebag miinwaa nango megwaa ezhwebag,  
miinwa geyaabi waani zhiwebag.**

We respect and honour the past, present and future.

# LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

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## **LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF THE ANISHINABEK NATION**

Linda Debassige, Grand Council Chief (M'Chigeeng First Nation)

Chris Plain, Deputy Grand Council Chief (Aamjiwnaang First Nation)

Mishomis Richard Assinewai, Grand Council Head Getzit (Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory)

## **NORTHERN SUPERIOR REGION**

Regional Chief Melvin Hardy (Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek)

Chief Louis Kwisswa, Board Member (Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg)

Gimaa Kwe Helen (Angela) Paavola, Treasury Board Member (Namaygoosisagagun First Nation)

James Mishquart, Getzidjig Advisory Council Northern Superior Region Representative

## **LAKE HURON REGION**

Regional Chief Scott McLeod (Nipissing First Nation)

Ogimaa Gerry Duquette, Board Member (Dokis First Nation)

Brendan Huston, Treasury Board Member (Nipissing First Nation)

Donna Debassige, Getzidjig Advisory Council Lake Huron Region Representative

## **SOUTHWEST REGION**

Regional Chief Joe Miskokomon (Chippewas of the Thames First Nation)

Chief Kimberly Bressette, Board Member (Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation)

Elizabeth Cloud, Treasury Board Member (Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation)

Dwayne Nashkawa, Secretary Treasurer (Saugeen First Nation)

Leroy Dolson, Getzidjig Advisory Council Southwest Region Representative

## **SOUTHEAST REGION**

Regional Chief Marsha Smoke (Alderville First Nation)

James R. Marsden, Board Member (Alderville First Nation)

Phyllis Williams, Treasury Board Member (Curve Lake First Nation)

Vacant, Getzidjig Advisory Council Southeast Region Representative

## **WIIKWEMKOONG REPRESENTATIVE**

Ogimaa Tim Ominika (Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory)

## **ADVISORY COUNCILS**

The Anishinabek Nation Council is supported by five Advisory Councils: Kwe-Wuk Advisory Council, Getzidjig Advisory Council, Eshki-niigijig Advisory Council, Niniwag Advisory Council and the Niizhwaadwiwag Advisory Council. These Advisory Councils meet from time to time as individual groups or collectively, to discuss areas of concern, review and provide advice on Anishinabek Nation program initiatives and engage in nation-building activities.



## **AJJAAK (CRANE) DOODEM**

### **Anishinabek Nation Government and Communications**

Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige (M'Chigeeng First Nation)  
Deputy Grand Council Chief Chris Plain (Aamjiwnaang First Nation)  
Lake Huron Regional Chief Scott McLeod (Nipissing First Nation)  
Northern Superior Regional Chief Mel Hardy (Bijitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek)

## **GIIGOON (FISH) DOODEM**

### **Natural Resources and Aboriginal Treaty Rights**

Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige (M'Chigeeng First Nation)  
Deputy Grand Council Chief Chris Plain (Aamjiwnaang First Nation)  
Northern Superior Regional Chief Mel Hardy (Bijitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek)  
Lake Huron Regional Chief Scott McLeod (Nipissing First Nation)  
Southeast Board Member James Marsden (Alderville First Nation)  
Southeast Regional Chief Marsha Smoke (Alderville First Nation)

## **WAAWAASHKESH (DEER) DOODEM**

### **Social Development**

Deputy Grand Council Chief Chris Plain (Aamjiwnaang First Nation)  
Southeast Board Member James Marsden (Alderville First Nation)  
Northern Superior Board Member Chief Louis Kwissiwa (Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg)

## **MIGIZII (EAGLE) DOODEM**

### **Employment, Training and Lifelong Learning**

Deputy Grand Council Chief Chris Plain (Aamjiwnaang First Nation)  
Southeast Board Member James Marsden (Alderville First Nation)  
Northern Superior Board Member Chief Louis Kwissiwa (Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg)

## **MAANG (LOON) DOODEM**

### **Intergovernmental Affairs and Aboriginal Treaty Rights**

Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige (M'Chigeeng First Nation)  
Deputy Grand Council Chief Chris Plain (Aamjiwnaang First Nation)  
Lake Huron Regional Chief Scott McLeod (Nipissing First Nation)  
Northern Superior Regional Chief Mel Hardy (Bijitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek)  
Southwest Regional Chief Joe Miskokomon (Chippewas of the Thames First Nation)  
Southeast Board Member James Marsden (Alderville First Nation)

## **MUKWAA (BEAR) DOODEM**

### **Health and Healing**

Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige (M'Chigeeng First Nation)  
Deputy Grand Council Chief Chris Plain (Aamjiwnaang First Nation)  
Southeast Regional Chief Marsha Smoke (Alderville First Nation)  
Lake Huron Board Member Chief Gerry Duquette (Dokis First Nation)  
Southwest Board Member Chief Kimberly Bressette (Chippewas of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation)  
Northern Superior Regional Chief Mel Hardy (Bijitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek)

## **WAABIZHESHII (MARTEN) DOODEM**

### **Revenue, Finance and the Economy**

Deputy Grand Council Chief Chris Plain (Aamjiwnaang First Nation)  
Southwest Regional Chief Joe Miskokomon (Chippewas of the Thames First Nation)  
Northern Superior Board Member Louis Kwissiwa (Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg)  
Southeast Regional Chief Marsha Smoke (Alderville First Nation)

## **SHIIKENG (TURTLE) DOODEM**

### **Legal, Justice and Aboriginal Treaty Rights**

Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige (M'Chigeeng First Nation)  
Lake Huron Board Member Chief Gerry Duquette (Dokis First Nation)  
Northern Superior Board Member Louis Kwissiwa (Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg)



# GRAND COUNCIL CHIEF MESSAGE AND POLITICAL UPDATE

Aniin, boozhoo,

Greetings to all the Anishinaabe across Anishinabek territory! It is a privilege to represent you and present our Annual Report to inform of our advocacy efforts and activities over the past year. Our efforts throughout the year have been focused on the inclusion of all regions and communities, representing your best interests and advocating for you! We have been focused on working for you and making sure the Anishinabek Nation is more relevant in your lives in our advocacy efforts. The Anishinabek Nation is governed by the Grand Council Assembly, which is comprised of our 39 First Nation Chiefs and is supported by a Leadership Council to oversee the implementation of mandates.

The Anishinabek Nation's political advocacy is guided by mandates provided by its 39 member First Nations collectively as the Anishinabek Nation Chiefs-in-Assembly. While core governance and education have been our primary focus, significant work is also underway in several other sectors including Economic Development, Labour Market Development, Health, Social, Lands and Resources, and Government Relations. The Anishinabek Nation territory is comprised of four geographic areas, corresponding to treaty boundaries:

- Northern Superior Region (Thunder Bay, east to Wawa)
- Lake Huron Region (Sault Ste. Marie, east to North Bay, south to Parry Sound)
- Southeast Region (Eastern and Central Ontario)
- Southwest Region (Southwestern Ontario)

The Anishinabek Nation provides leadership on key political and operational challenges in Ontario and across Canada. The 39 Anishinabek First Nations identify priorities and devise proactive solutions that meet the needs of its citizens while working with the Government of Ontario and Canada. We continue to maintain meaningful relationships with our government counterparts. Throughout the year, we met with provincial and federal ministries, including where we bring forward key priorities and emerging issues from our communities. The Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin forms the traditional government of the Anishinabek Nation, which we continue to make a part of all our governance structures. It legislates Anishinaabemowin as the official language of the Anishinabek Nation and we continue to revitalize our language initiatives throughout our Nations.

The Anishinabek Nation has established ground-breaking initiatives in the areas of First Nation economic development, harvesting, policing, education, child well-being, health promotion, and overall governance frameworks. These and other First Nation-level initiatives have been critical at creating stability within rights-based issues. The Anishinabek Nation and several of its member First Nations have established constitutions that will profoundly impact our priorities moving forward. These efforts are critical in supporting the future prosperity for our communities.

The Anishinabek Nation have been working with communities to identify a set of shared priority areas. This past year, the Anishinabek

Nation hosted a series of strategy sessions to develop these priority areas for advocacy. These priorities take into consideration the decisions and processes stemming from our communities and regions which will lead the Anishinabek Nation seven generations into the future. Regionally, we participated in collective leadership efforts and nation-building with our representative organizations. It is important to us that we build strong relationships with other Anishinabek and other relatives who are represented by other organizations such as Chiefs of Ontario and Assembly of First Nations so we can collectively continue to advance the regional and national efforts that we actively participate in.

At the community level, we continue to hold bi-annual Regional Chiefs Meetings and Grand Council Assembly that rotate host communities each year. It is always a privilege to gather directly in our communities and experience the unique hospitality of our communities. We are also grateful to our Nation Council members who generously share their experience, knowledge, and perspectives. They are an invaluable resource in our governance structure and are greatly appreciated in the sound guidance and advocacy they bring in community engagement efforts.

Chi-miigwech to all our Anishinabek Nation Chiefs and Councils, Elders, youth, Advisory Councils, staff, and citizens for the engagement throughout the year. We are so grateful for the continued support, encouragement, and for your leadership efforts as we advocate for our Anishinabek communities. We are here to listen, support our communities, amplify your voice when you need us to, represent your voice when asked, and raise up our Anishinabek Nation together.

Linda Debassige (M'Chigeeng First Nation)  
Grand Council Chief  
Anishinabek Nation



*The Stand Up Election took place on Day 2 of the 2024 Anishinabek Nation June Grand Council Assembly hosted in Lake Huron Region.*



*From left: Former Treasury Board Chair Gary Dokis, Northern Superior Regional Chief Mel Hardy, Lake Huron Regional Chief Scott McLeod, JimBob Marsden, Southwest Regional Chief Joe Miskomon, US Consul General Baxter Hunt, Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige, Legal Director Fred Bellefeuille, Deputy Grand Council Chief Chris Plain, Kettle & Stony Point Chief Kim Bressette, Southeast Regional Chief Marsha Smoke and Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory Ogimaa Kwe Rachel Manitowabi met on August 21.*

# NATION COUNCIL



From left: Kwe-wuk Advisory Council reps Evelyn Stone (Northern Superior Region), Nora Sawyer (Southeast Region), Betsy Kechego (Southwest Region) and Donna Debassige (Lake Huron Region).

Nation Council Coordination program, formerly known as Special Projects, works within the Governance Department and is responsible for supporting Governance work plan activities, as well as coordinating activities of the Nation Council.

The Nation Council is made up of five Advisory Councils:

- Kwe-Wuk Advisory Council (Women)
- Getzidjig Advisory Council (Elders)
- Eshki-niigijig Advisory Council (Youth)
- Niizhwaadziwag Advisory Council (2SLGBTQIA+)
- Niniwag Advisory Council (Men)

The following is a listing of Nation Council members who have well represented the Anishinabek Nation in their role throughout the 2024-2025 fiscal year:

## GETZIDJIG ADVISORY COUNCIL (ELDERS)

- Nmishomis Richard Assinewai (Head Getzit)
- Nmishomis James Mishquart (Northern Superior)
- Nmishomis Leroy Dolson (Southwest)
- Ookomis Donna Debassige (Lake Huron)
- Nmishomis Vincent Glenn (Peach) Marsden (Honourary Member, Southeast)
- Nmishomis Roy Michano (Honourary Member, Northern Superior)
- Nokomis Elsie Bissaillion (Honourary Member, Lake Huron)

## KWE-WUK ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Betsy Kechego (Southwest)
- Donna Debassige (Lake Huron, Interim Member)
- Nora Sawyer (Southeast)
- Evelyn Stone (Northern Superior)

## ESHKI-NIIGIJIG ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Lance Copegog (Southeast)
- Terra Roy (Southeast)
- Pierre Debassige (Lake Huron)
- Brittnee Waindubence (Lake Huron)
- Katelyn Peters (Southwest)
- Kingson Huff (Southwest)
- Vacant (Northern Superior)
- Vacant (Northern Superior)

## NINIWAG ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Bryan Bellefeuille (Lake Huron)
- Jack Trudeau (Lake Huron)
- Southeast, Southwest, Northern Superior (Vacant)

## NIIZHWAADZIWAG ADVISORY COUNCIL (2SLGBTQIA)

- Heidi Whetung (Southeast)
- NaWalka Geeshy Meegwun (Southwest)
- Aaron Bowerman (Lake Huron)
- Northern Superior (Vacant)

## ACTIVITIES

Throughout the year, Nation Council members have been actively involved in many areas to support Anishinabek Nation programs, including but not limited to:

- Regional Chiefs Meetings (April, September, October, December 2024/January)
- Grand Council Assembly (June 2024)
- Anishinaabe Giizhigad and planning (June 2024)
- Fall Assembly (October 2024)
- Leadership Meetings (April 2024, December 2024, March 2025)

- Nation Council/Commissioner Joint Monthly Meetings/Zoom (resumes January, February, March 2025/first Thursday month): these meetings are a chance for members to provide updates and recommendations to the secretariat.

The June 2024 Grand Council Assembly included a stand-up election for the new Grand Council Chief and Deputy Grand Council Chief. The Nation Council is heavily involved in overseeing this process. The Head Getzit (Elder) and Oskawbewis oversee the Stand-Up Election and ensure that cultural protocols and ceremonies (Sunrise, Blanket) are completed accordingly. The Eshki-niigijig take the Stand-Up Election count, and the Grandmothers raise leadership to power in ceremony. These roles are integral to the Anishinabek Nation in ensuring Leadership is in place to strengthen unity, assert governance, and that the Nation is well-represented politically so that advocacy is enhanced to benefit the 39 First Nations.

In support of citizens who belong to the Niizhwaadziwag (2SLGBTQIA+) Community, the Advisory Council has instilled that the Pride Flag be carried into the Grand Council Assemblies to support an inclusive Anishinabek Nation and break systemic barriers. The Niizhwaadziwag Advisory Council (2SLGBTQIA+) has also lent their voice and perspective to several episodes of the Anishinabek Nation Podcast, Bemaadizijig Ganoonindwaa: Talking to People, which can be found on Anishinabek Nation YouTube Channel:

- Two Spirit Roles and Responsibilities: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=naMXNE9CHY>
- Addressing Homophobia: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOIzZZJyVv0>
- Two Spirit Terminology: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jv55o8emPKc>
- Two Spirit Health: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11k1xBRghis>

Other program meetings and events that the Advisory Councils members have attended include:

- Lands, Resources, and Economic Development: Water Consortium, Economic Development Opportunities Forum, Lands and Resources Forum, Roundtables, Chiefs Committee on the Environment, Retail Advisory Circle, First Nations Climate Leadership Leaders Meeting, Lands and Resources Regional Roundtables, and AORMC Meeting
- Health: Health Conference, Health Transformation Forum, and Health Transformation Meetings
- Anishinaabemowin: Committee meetings and one member also supports translation services
- Social Development: Child Well-Being Working Group meetings and Family Well-Being
- Governance Summit
- Citizenship Forum
- Ontario Chiefs Coroner's Child and Youth Death Review Transformation Final Review
- Chiefs of Ontario AGA



*Grand Council Head Gezit Richard Assinewai.*



*From left: Eshki-niigijig Advisory Council reps Pierre Debassige, Kingson Huff, Mackenzie Courchene, Terra Roy, Lance Copegog, Katelyn Peters, Brittnee Waindubence. Not pictured: Marcus Alexander Hardy.*

# ENIIGAANZIIKIDAAGED (INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER) MESSAGE

Aaniin,

As we navigate through this period of significant change, our focus remains on enhancing our organizational approach to better support our advocacy efforts of Anishinabek Nation First Nations, Leadership, and Anishinabek First Nation citizens. The ongoing work at our Leadership Council, Nation Council, and sector departments is crucial to achieving our mission.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our staff, councils, committees, and commissions. Their contributions are vital to our progress and success. Each member's commitment to their roles ensures that our advocacy and programs are delivered effectively. The collaborative approach within our teams is an area where we have focused our attention.

A special note of appreciation goes to our Leadership Council and Treasury Board. Their support and guidance have been instrumental in implementing the changes we are currently undertaking as we are implementing change within our operations. Their commitment to fostering a culture of transparency, accountability, and change is setting a new standard for our organization. The initiatives they have championed are not just changes; they are transformative steps towards a brighter future for the Anishinabek Nation.

Our staff's efforts ensure that our advocacy and programs are relevant and accountable to Anishinabek Nation First Nations. To our councils, committees, commissions, and commissioners, your hard work and dedication are greatly valued. Your contributions are invaluable to the work taking place across the Anishinabek Nation, and our sector departments.

The environment of change we are embracing is designed to enhance our capacity to support Anishinabek First Nations more effectively. We are committed to building a stronger, more responsive organization that is better equipped to advocate for the rights and interests of Anishinabek citizens.

I am confident in the path we have set out and am confident in our team that our collective efforts are moving us forward as an organization and supporting the work that is taking place across the Anishinabek Nation.



*Eniigaanziikidaaged (Interim Chief Executive Officer) Allan Dokis.*



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# ADMINISTRATION - WAABIZHESHII DOODEM (MARTEN CLAN)

The Administration of the Anishinabek Nation is responsible for providing strategic leadership, operational oversight, and governance support to ensure the effective functioning of the organization.

Additionally, it ensures compliance with organizational policies, regulatory requirements, and best practices in governance, finance, and operational efficiency. It also plays a key role in fostering a positive workplace culture, promoting Anishinaabe values, and maintaining strong relationships with First Nation leadership, government agencies, and community partners.

Administration includes the following departments and services:

- Executive Director Office
- Operations Department
  - Facilities, Fleet, and Reception Services
  - IT Services
- Human Resources Department
- Finance Department

The administration team members provide expertise and leadership in their respective areas, implement key initiatives, and address challenges to maintain stability and efficiency within the Anishinabek Nation, ensuring efficient financial management, effective human resources policies, streamlined operational functions, and overall organizational success.

## Staff

- Executive Director
- Sarah St. Louis, Executive Services Manager
- Marlene Manitowabi, Executive Services Coordinator

## Operations

The Operations Department is responsible for ensuring the efficient and effective functioning of key organizational support services, including Facilities Services, Reception Services, Fleet Management, and IT Services. These functions play a vital role in maintaining smooth daily operations, optimizing resource utilization, and supporting the broader strategic goals of the Anishinabek Nation.

## Staff

- Allan Dokis, Director of Operations
- Alicia McLeod, Senior Coordinator
- Bobbie Maxwell, Facilities Manager
- Ray St. Louis, IT User Support Manager
- April Goulais, Front Desk Administrator
- Cody Maloney, Custodian
- John St. Amour, Maintenance Worker
- Mary Zoccole, Administrative Assistant

## Human Resources Department

The Human Resources Department is responsible for the planning, organizing, controlling, and evaluating of human resources related activities for the Anishinabek Nation (Union of Ontario Indians), and providing support and advice to the Chief Executive Officer on Human Resources-related activities.

## Staff

- Sarah Gammon, Human Resources Director
- Jennifer Lalonde, Human Resources Generalist

## Finance Department

The Finance Department is responsible for the overall financial health of the organization. The role of the Finance Department is to assist the Leadership to strengthen the effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability of its operation. The team provides support and advice to all operating Departments within the organization to assist them in accomplishing their financial objectives.

## Staff

- Muhammad Zubair Mughal, Director Finance
- Theresa Green, Senior Finance Officer
- Kayla Restoule, Finance Support Officer
- Jennifer Croxon, Finance Support Officer
- Bella McLeod, Finance Clerk



*Anishinabek Nation Head Office located in Nipissing First Nation.*

# ANISHINAABEMOWIN DEPARTMENT - MIGIZII DOODEM (EAGLE CLAN)

The Anishinaabemowin Department supports the resolutions put forward by the Anishinabek Nation Chiefs-in-Assembly regarding Anishinaabemowin acquisition, revitalization, reclamation, and preservation.

Migizii Doodem Gimaag:

- Chris Plain, Deputy Grand Council Chief, Aamjiwnaang First Nation
- James Marsden, Southeast Board Member, Alderville First Nation
- Chief Louis Kwissiwa, Northern Superior Board Member, Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg

Staff:

- Ali Darnay, Anishinaabemowin E-niigaanziik'ki-dang, Manager
- Laurie McLeod-Shabogesis, Anishinaabemowin E-nkiitang, Coordinator

The Department and its staff support the Anishinaabemowin E-niigaanwidood (Language Commissioner) along with the Enkiitmajig Wii-aabiziitong Anishinaabemowin (EWA) Committee, which includes Anishinaabemowin leaders and speakers from each of the four Regions of the Anishinabek Nation and Nation Council.

## E-NIIGAANWIDOOD ANISHINAABEMOWIN COMMISSIONER

Anishinaabemowin E-niigaanwidood Barbara Nolan participates in leadership meetings to provide updates on the Anishinaabemowin mandate, including the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council, Fall Assembly, and Regional Chiefs meetings. This Anishinaabemowin E-niigaanwidood represents the Anishinabek Nation at the Chiefs of Ontario Leadership Committee on Languages, Anishinaabemowin Boodawe Committee, the Robinson-Huron Treaty Litigation Fund Language Revitalization, and the Ontario Ministry of Education. She continues to promote and provide opportunities for Anishinabek First Nation citizens to learn Anishinaabemowin, including teaching fluent speakers' immersion techniques; provides advice on Anishinaabemowin revitalization and acquisition in support of Anishinaabemowin strategies; and participates in and chairs the EWA Committee meetings. She also provides translation services, collaborates with fluent speakers on endorsed new Anishinaabemowin terms for the Anishinabek Nation, and various keynote addresses.

## STRATEGIC PLAN

A five-year Strategic Plan has been developed and approved by way of input from language speakers of the EWA Committee. The plan sets out timelines and required resources to support Anishinaabemowin acquisition and retention. With the support from staff, a yearly work plan with activities is established with the guidance of the EWA Committee, Anishinabek First Nations, and the Anishinabek Nation Education Secretariat.

## WORK PLAN

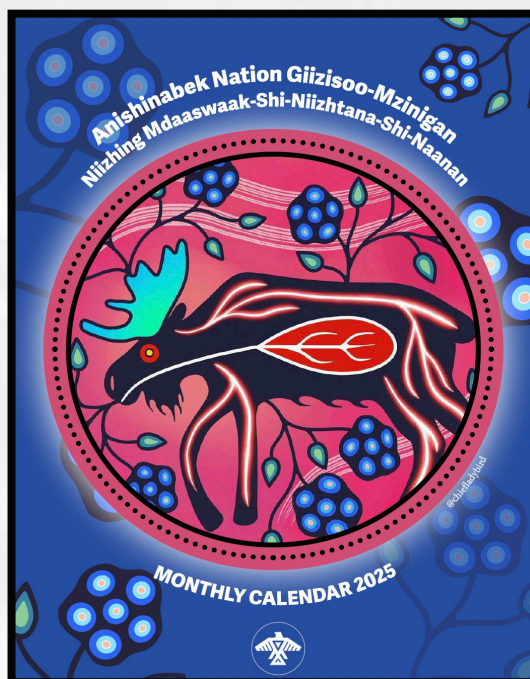
The work plan activities offer Anishinabek citizens opportunities to reclaim and revitalize Anishinaabemowin. The work plan also supports Anishinabek Nation and staff promote awareness of Anishinaabemowin, and to participate in Anishinaabemowin professional development. The department continues to offer weekly one-hour Anishinaabemowin classes with Isadore Toulouse to learn and share the Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe – One Anishinaabe Family, preamble to Anishinabek Nation Chi-Naaknigewin. The

Anishinaabemowin Promotion Project was also offered to staff with the generous support of the Labour Market Development Department. Staff participated in Anishinaabemowin learning including weekly conversational classes (September 2024 to March 2025), a two-day online intensive and a two-day in-person learning session offered by Ninaatigoons Learning. The two-days sessions also welcomed additional staff and Anishinabek citizens from various First Nations.

Communication is a key component of the work plan in promoting Anishinaabemowin opportunities, including social media platforms, developing educational resources like the *Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinabe Colouring Book*, *Ezhi-Nawending: How We Are Related* resource booklet, and the Anishinabek Nation *Giizisoo Mzinigan* monthly calendar. The calendar offers monthly webinars and daily sound bites that share the phrases within it and features input from Anishinaabemowin teachers and speakers from across the four Anishinabek Nation Regions.

This year, the Anishinaabemowin Department supported the implementation of four EWA committee meetings, with the goal of building relationships; moving forward the Strategic Plan; Anishinaabemowin sharing; resource development and reviewing the next steps.

As part of its outreach activities, the Department supported Anishinaabemowin E-niigaanwidood presentations at Ogemahwahj Tribal Council Language conference (May 2024), Chiefs of Ontario Education and Language Forum, Anishinabek Education Gathering (February 2025), Anishinabek Nation Water Consortium (March 2025) and the 31st Annual Anishinaabemowin-Teg Language Conference (March 2025).



Anishinabek Nation Giizisoo-Mzinigan.

## COLLABORATION

The Department continues to meet with the Anishinaabemowin Boodawe Committee and the Anishinabek Education System -Kinoomaadziwin Education Body (AES-KEB) to discuss support for the Anishinaabemowin Revival Program, a Language Teachers Association, and a common voice to the Ministry of Education. The Anishinabek Nation continues to advocate for increased language revitalization funding and official language designation.

# ANISHINAABEMOWIN DEPARTMENT - MIGIZII DOODEM (EAGLE CLAN) CONTIN'D

The Anishinaabemowin Department also continues to build relationships with the KEB and B'Maakonigan, the Signatory First Nations exercising law-making and jurisdiction under self-governing processes recognized by the Governments of Canada and Ontario. There are opportunities to collaborate on resources and activities.

## PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2025-2026



The Anishinaabemowin Department to continue its ongoing development and implementation of a work plan that supports the Anishinaabemowin Strategic Plan. Activities include:

- Ongoing support to Anishinaabemowin E-niigaanwidood, and the EWA Committee.
- Publishing and distributing the Anishinabek Nation Giizisoo-Mzinigan, 12 learning webinars, and daily posts with sound bites.
- Social Media activities including daily/weekly/biweekly social media posts, website posts, Mzhinigan updates, and podcasts.
- Weekly Anishinaabemowin classes and additional learning sessions.
- Create community resources that guide First Nations in planning and implementing Anishinaabemowin activities.
- Develop presentations for community language planning for First Nations.
- Complete language survey, compile/analyze data (including census), and produce a Anishinaabemowin profile.
- Draft five-year language plan.
- Promote the availability of Anishinaabemowin Resources on Anishinabek websites.
- Develop new Anishinaabemowin resources accessible for First Nations and citizens.
- Promote and pilot Rosetta Stone – Ojibwe Mille Lacs Band.
- Continue to build relationships and collaborations with AES-KEB, B'Maakonigan, and other Anishinaabemowin organizations.
- Ongoing reporting.



Anishinabek Nation Anishinaabemowin E-niigaanwidood (Commissioner) Barbara Nolan at the March 2025 Anishinaabemowin-Teg conference.



SAVE THE DATE

**Anishinabek Nation Anishinaabemowin Department**

Join the Anishinabek Nation Anishinaabemowin Department Anishinaabemowin Language Classes every Tuesday from 1:30PM-2:30PM EST with Isadore Toulouse, Anishinaabemowin Instructor (Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory).

**Date:** Occurs every Tuesday from 1:30PM-2:30PM EST  
**Location:** Virtual Zoom Webinar  
**Hosted by:** Anishinabek Nation Anishinaabemowin Department

Click the link above to participate or visit: <https://bit.ly/3Pv5i5N>

For all inquiries, contact: [ali.darnay@anishinabek.ca](mailto:ali.darnay@anishinabek.ca)

# ANISHINABEK EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE - MIGIZII DOODEM (EAGLE CLAN)

## **AEI Mission Statement:**

*"The Anishinabek Educational Institute is mandated by the Anishinabek Annual General Assembly (Resolution 94/13), to provide quality education and training programs for First Nation communities.*

*The Anishinabek Educational Institute will provide community-based programming, which will better prepare the student for success in an ever-changing world.*

*The mission shall always be by and for Anishinabek people; at our pleasure, at our pace, and by our own standards. Forever to the Seventh Generation."*

## **Education Secretariat Mission Statement:**

*"The Anishinabek Nation Education Secretariat has a mandate to assist all 39 Anishinabek Nation member First Nations on a broad range of education issues including early childhood, elementary, secondary, post-secondary, lifelong learning, and special education."*

## **Leadership Council Doodem Portfolio Holders:**

Education and Lifelong Learning (Migizii Doodem)

- Deputy Grand Council Chief Chris Plain
- Southeast Region Board Member James Marsden
- Northern Superior Board Member Chief Louis Kwissiwá

## **Department Staff:**

### **Curve Lake Office**

Mindy Taylor, Director of Education

Lori Cummings, Operational Assistant

### **Munsee Delaware Campus**

Frank Cooper, Campus Manager

Kristen Grosbeck, Operational Assistant

Andrea Noah, Program Coordinator

Sue Ireland, Program Coordinator

Shelly Hill, Program Assistant

### **Nipissing Campus**

Jennifer Fletcher, Campus Manager

Abigail Yzereef, Social Media and Communications Coordinator

Kayla Bomberry, Registrar Services Coordinator

Melanie Miller, Program Development Coordinator

Megan Stevens, Student Wellness Coordinator

Beverley Peltier, Student Wellness Program Assistant

Jazmine Glass, Program Coordinator (Maternity Leave)

Julie McLeod, Program Coordinator

Katie Koostachin, Program Coordinator

Sharon O'Connor, Program Coordinator

Tanya Couchie, Program Assistant

## **Highlights from 2024-2025**

AEI has continued to build on and enhance our student support services and program delivery through several targeted funding projects. Funding has been utilized to support students in health field programming to offset direct costs of program registration, provide minor facility upgrades, and enhance student mental health and accessibility supports while achieving higher education goals. Funds provided are in addition to the resources available to deliver community-requested and on-site programming and supports,

cultural knowledge and inclusion

Nipissing Staff Left to Right: Beverley Peltier, Megan Stevens, Kayla Bomberry, Katie Koostachin, Sharon O'Connor, Julie McLeod, Melanie Miller, Tanya Couchie, Linda Pope (grandmother) and Abigail Yzereef. initiatives, program development, and ongoing administrative work towards organizational recognition and programming accreditation.

## **Health Programs Funding**

AEI's Health Expansion funding is in its third year for Personal Support Worker (PSW) and Practical Nursing (PN) programming. A renewed funding agreement for the 2024 to 2026 academic years now includes funding for Pre-Health Sciences (PHS) program students in both the 1-year program and the spring/summer semester entrance requirement courses (PHS-U) delivery options. The funding is available to eligible students who register in AEI's Health programs and covers tuition (direct payment or reimbursement to student funder), textbooks, clinical placement stipends, and funds to update lab equipment to support an enhanced hands-on learning experience that is current to local healthcare equipment use.

## **Student Wellness Programming**

The wellness program continues providing students with access to academic and cultural supports as well as opportunities for students to engage with peers, faculty, cultural supports, and staff outside of the classroom setting.

All wellness programming is available to both campuses and our community-based deliveries and includes Mental Health funding for the Nookmis After-Hours Call-In Line, a variety of weekly activities, including virtual yoga, traditional crafts, paint night, monthly Tea with Gookmis socials. We host the March Wellness Series, which is a month-long series of events and information sessions focused on reducing effects of seasonal affective disorder in late winter, and various wellness packages that include access to traditional medicines, ribbon skirts/shirts, and food is medicine lunch and learns.

Campus Safety funding has provided students with opportunities to participate in self-defence classes, Wilderness First Aid and ASIST+ training, access to the emergency foodbank resources, and to a free AEI Student Safety App. Accessibility for Learners funding has allowed AEI to continue to build on its accessibility software and equipment supports for students, including Braille readers and printers, free student subscription to Kurzweil talk to text and text to talk software, and low vision and hearing impaired support equipment. Continued utilization of a Gap Analysis has assisted with identifying potential improvements to campus facilities and staff training to better support students with accessibility needs, including the recently upgraded 2nd floor accessible restroom and the purchase of powered Emergency Evacuation Chairs and support boards.

## **Program Delivery**

AEI has continued to be adaptable to students' needs with our program delivery methods by offering in-person, on-line hybrid, and community-based programming. While in-person attendance is requested, returning students were given options for continuing virtually, new students were provided accommodations to support individual needs and circumstances.

Various skills development and training workshops were held for staff, faculty, cultural supports, and students, including Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, Non-Violent Crisis Intervention, Gentle Persuasion Techniques, Anishinaabemowin, Skills Development in Traditional Counselling Supports, Accessibility Supports, and Wilderness First Aid with AED and Naloxone.

All community-based deliveries continue to incorporate Indigenous Knowledge, as well as provide a cultural support person (i.e., Elder) in class to assist with the program. Local Indigenous experts are hired to instruct the courses in each delivery, which assists to foster student success. A community-based delivery of Binoojinyag Kinoomaadwin: Early Childhood Education, in Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, began January 2024 and is currently completing its 3rd semester.

**Convocation Ceremonies**

In 2024, AEI proudly celebrated the achievements of graduates from both the Nipissing and Munsee Delaware Campuses. Students received diplomas and certificates in Binoojiinyag Kinoomaadwin: Early Childhood Education, First Nation Child Welfare Advocate, Native Community Worker: Traditional Healing Methods, and Practical Nursing programs. At the Munsee Delaware Campus, additional graduates were recognized in the Personal Support Worker and Social Service Worker: Indigenous Knowledge programs.

**Accreditation Status**

AEI continues to advance its organizational review submission in pursuit of accreditation status, which would formally recognize the Institute’s program diplomas and certificates. A significant milestone in this effort was the completion of AEI’s 2025–2030 Strategic Plan, which was developed in direct support of the accreditation process. The organizational review package is scheduled for submission in the 2025/26 fiscal year.

**Department Objectives for 2025 - 2026**

- Renew Health Expansion funding for 2025–2027 to support PHS, PSW, and PN cohorts.
- Continued delivery and promotion of current certificate and diploma programs, including the launch of the new Mental Health and Addictions Worker program in September 2025.
- Coordinate and deliver new program intakes for Spring and Fall 2025, and Winter 2026 semesters.
- Review and enhance student services through evaluations and engagement sessions to ensure programs meet student and community needs.
- Deliver the 3rd annual Spring Medicine Camp and continue offering student wellness programming that promotes Anishinaabe language, culture, and traditional practices.
- Review program curriculum to ensure ongoing relevance to labour market and field-specific requirements.
- Support program audits for Early Childhood Education and Native Community Worker programs.
- Pursue professional certification pathways for Native Community Worker graduates.
- Strengthen networks with Employment and Training Offices, Education Departments, High Schools, and community skills development agencies.
- Advance the accreditation process with the Indigenous Advanced Education and Skills Council (IAESC).
- Continue the development of AEI-owned programs and establish Program Development Advisory Committees to support accreditation goals.

If you have any comments, questions, or would like additional information on any of the Education initiatives, please contact Mindy Taylor, Director of Education via e-mail: [mindy.taylor@anishinabek.ca](mailto:mindy.taylor@anishinabek.ca).



*Nipissing Staff Left to Right: Beverley Peltier, Megan Stevens, Kayla Bomberry, Katie Koostachin, Sharon O’Connor, Julie McLeod, Melanie Miller, Tanya Couchie, Linda Pope (grandmother) and Abigail Yzereef.*



*AEI Munsee Delaware Staff (from left): Andrea Noah, Shelly Ireland, Frank Cooper, Kristin Grosbeck, and Sue Ireland.*

# COMMUNICATIONS - AJIJAAK DOODEM (CRANE CLAN)

## VISION STATEMENT

To be the voice of the Anishinabek Nation and to preserve Anishinaabe Bimaadziwin while advancing our goal of Nationhood.

## LEADERSHIP COUNCIL DOODEM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:

- Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige
- Deputy Grand Council Chief Chris Plain
- Lake Huron Regional Chief Scott McLeod
- Northern Superior Regional Chief Mel Hardy

## STAFF

- Marci Becking, Communications Director
- Laura Barrios, Communications Coordinator
- Emery Tasheff, Media Specialist
- Lisa Abel, Podcast Producer
- Prachi Nanavati, Website Generalist

## COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES

Activities are based on an Anishinabek Medicine Wheel teaching about the gifts of the four directions: TRUTH (Media Relations), HONESTY (Public Education), SHARING (Voices), and RESPECT (Communications Support).

The Communications Department supports activities related to the media and offers public relations services on behalf of the Anishinabek Nation.

The Communications Department is responsible for managing:

- *Anishinabek News* (print and online) and *Debwewin Citation*
- News releases, media advisories, and media relations
- *Great Lakes Pow Wow Guide*
- Social media (Facebook, X, Instagram, Bluesky, and YouTube)
- Gdoo-Sastamoo Kii Mi: This is our Understanding
- De'aabshkoo Gdaawmi: We are all the Same
- Ezhi-nawending: How we are Related
- Mzinhigan (bi-weekly newsletter)
- Nijiji Circle Page
- Bemaadzijig Ganoonindwaa – Talking to People podcast
- Wampum Belt Puzzles
- Anishinaabe Giizhigad public-facing communications
- Treaties Recognition Week
- Website administration

## COMMUNICATIONS HIGHLIGHTS

The Communications Department supports effective relations and results-based issue resolution through proactive engagement and effective communication.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION RESOURCES

- Bemaadzijig Ganoonindwaa – Talking to People podcast was launched in June 2024 and has completed its first season with 22 episodes. Available wherever you get your podcasts.
- The department is seeking to create a preschool book about treaties and promises this fiscal year.
- The department is planning to create an awareness campaign for the 35th anniversary of the Ipperwash Crisis in September.

## DEBWEGIN CITATIONS

Rick Garrick was awarded the 2024 Debwewin Citation in August 2024

and a formal ceremony took place at the Evening of Excellence hosted by the Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity.

## GREAT LAKES POW WOW GUIDE

The 30th annual *Great Lakes Pow Wow Guide* was published both in print and online in May 2024.



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - WAABIZHESHII DOODEM (MARTEN CLAN)

## VISION STATEMENT

"The Economic Development Department provides information, advocacy, and technical expertise to empower Anishinabek Nation communities and entrepreneurs for economic self-governance, sustainability, wealth creation, and financial independence."

## REVENUE FINANCE & THE ECONOMY (MARTEN CLAN) PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

- Deputy Grand Council Chief Chris Plain
- Southeast Regional Chief Marsha Smoke
- Southwest Regional Chief Joe Miskokomon
- Northern Superior Board Member Louis Kwisiwa

## CHIEFS COUNCIL ON THE ECONOMY

- Deputy Grand Council Chief Chris Plain, Chair

### Southwest Representatives:

- Chief Roger Thomas
- VACANT

### Southeast Representatives:

- Deputy Chief Jeff Jacobs
- Chief Taynar Simpson

### Southwest Regional Chief Joe Miskokomon, Co-Chair

### Lake Huron Representatives:

- Chief Alana Endanawas
- Chief Brent Niganobe

### Northern Superior Representatives

- Chief Gladys Thompson
- VACANT

## STAFF

Jason Laronde, Director  
Darlene Solomon, Manager  
Andrew Arnott, Policy Analyst  
Elaine Commanda, Administrative Assistant  
Brandon Manuel, Policy Analyst  
Dawn Lambe, Policy Analyst  
Fitzgerald Reid, Project Coordinator

## HIGHLIGHTS

The Chiefs Council on the Economy (CCOE) provides guidance and recommendations for Economic Development initiatives. Agenda items included:

- Energy Strategy
- First Nations financial sovereignty - bond issue feasibility, banking, access to capital
- Business advocacy - procurement, tourism, taxation exemption, etc.
- Indigenous Ministerial Arrangements Regulations (IMARs)
- National Benefits-Sharing Framework

The Economic Development Department is seeking additional representation for the Southwest and Northern Superior regions.

## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The Project Team sought to expand the impact of the Gasoline & Tobacco file by focusing the 2024-2025 work plan on bringing in

business leaders. Over a short period of time, we visited well over 100 businesses located across 21 First Nations, promoting the Retail Advisory Circle (RAC) and hearing invaluable information about the challenges of operating a business on reserve. These engagements helped shape the four (4) virtual and three (3) in-person RAC sessions that took brought together dozens of business leaders to network, take in business information sessions, and provide direction to the Anishinabek Nation.

The Anishinabek Nation continues to assert First Nations' inherent rights in the cannabis sector, building tools and knowledge to support community decision-making. With the industry now more developed since our 2019 resolution, we are advancing a potential sovereignty-based cannabis framework. In March, we hosted a virtual session on "First Nation Cannabis Laws: Changes and Reform," exploring legal developments, draft laws, and transitional planning.

## RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The Anishinabek Nation finalized a Forestry Strategy to support its members within the forestry sector with the main objective of supporting cooperation and partnership in the forestry sector. The project team accomplished this by researching the current landscape for forestry in Ontario; mapping out the current regulatory environment; identifying emerging forest management models, barriers, and critical success factors; and creating an inventory of careers and training materials.

Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) has been engaging Indigenous communities and organizations to inform the development of a National Benefits Sharing Framework (NBSF) and Indigenous Loan Guarantee Program (ILGP) for the natural resources sector. The purpose of this Framework is to increase the quality and consistency of benefits First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples receive from natural resources projects being developed on their lands or territories. As part of the federal government's commitment to economic reconciliation, the 2024 Budget will provide up to \$5 billion in ILGP guarantees to unlock access to capital needed for Indigenous groups to make major economic investments. The Economic Development Department will continue the collaboration with NRCan to engage member communities in 2024-2025.

## ENERGY, INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT, and MORE

The AN Regional Energy Plan was produced with the support of the Energy Working Group. This document maps the energy development activities taking place across our First Nations and provides a reference for our members' Energy Specialists for years to come. The project team also delivered information sessions, tailored to those interested in learning the basics of the energy sector, and professional training for existing Energy Specialists.

The Government of Canada launched in 2024-2025 the Return of the Federal Fuel Charge Proceeds Fund for Indigenous Governments, aiming to return a portion of fuel tax revenues to eligible Indigenous governments through grants. Developed on a distinctions-based approach, the program ensures proceeds are returned to the province or territory where they were collected. The Anishinabek Nation Economic Development Department supported regional and community leadership in understanding the program, how funds are assessed, and in developing a framework for equitable distribution. In 2025, the funds will continue to be returned to Indigenous governments.

The Anishinabek Nation leadership in 2020 actioned the updating of the 2008 *Economic Blueprint* to reflect the vastly different economic landscape that First Nations must navigate. After years of engagement and research, the Economic Development Department produced

the 2024 *Economic Blueprint* and *EDO Roadmap*, serving to address the socioeconomic barriers unique to each First Nation. We see the 2024 Blueprint as being relevant to all departments and as a means of coordinating the cross-functional activities that translate to growth for our member Nations.

### PROJECTS FOR 2025-2026 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The Anishinabek Nation will continue to engage with provincial ministries to clarify licensing pathways and has submitted a proposal to pilot a licensed retail model with a First Nation. To support broader economic participation, we have also proposed a national cannabis conference for Fall 2025 focused on legislation, licensing, and business development. The Economic Development Department is seeking funding to develop a First Nation procurement protocol and pilot project that will support greater inclusion of Indigenous businesses, as well as to create a regional tourism strategy tailored to the Northern Superior region, recognizing its unique assets and opportunities. In collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, we are participating in a Relationship Table aimed at identifying practical solutions to longstanding taxation issues affecting First Nations. Additionally, the Department is working to establish a Business Advisory Council that will connect business leaders with Anishinabek Nation departments to strengthen policy advocacy and program development.

### RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The Anishinabek Nation Economic Development Department is preparing to implement and promote the Forestry Strategy through EDO Network gatherings, community visits, and the upcoming Anishinabek Nation Economic Development Opportunities (ANEDO) 2025 Forum, and is initiating Forestry Strategy 2.0 to build capacity and participation in downstream value-add biomass products, including energy. In mining, we continue to support the Lands and Resources Department, including participation in industry events like PDAC, and will explore opportunities to align this work with Spirit of the Land initiatives. The Spirit of the Land program will focus on engaging interested and impacted First Nations through guided sessions that walk through the impact assessment tools and their applications in resource development decision-making. The department continues to advocate for National Benefits Sharing Framework.

### ENERGY, INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT, and MORE

The Anishinabek Nation will begin implementing the Regional Energy Plan, with the Energy Working Group continuing to convene in preparation for upcoming engagement opportunities with the IESO and other sector partners. Advancing an Anishinabek Energy Strategy remains a top priority, and funding is being pursued to support this cross-functional initiative. We are also actively exploring opportunities for equity ownership in emerging energy projects. We are initiating a project with NRCAN to establish an Indigenous Governing Body to exert jurisdiction over inter-national/provincial pipelines and transmission lines that cross our traditional territories. In addition, the Economic Development Department continues to monitor developments in broadband, transportation, and other critical infrastructure areas to support long-term community growth.

### ANISHINABEK NATION ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FORUM 2025

Planning for the ANEDO 2025 is well underway, with this year's theme aligning with the *Economic Blueprint*: Mashkawiziwin (Empower), Mkwawaataagoziwin (Evoke), and Aandinaagwitoon (Evolve), along with a new Reconciliation Report Card component. The event will be held October 14–17, 2025, in Chippewas of Rama First Nation, and departments are encouraged to participate in planning and promotion.

Contact Jason Laronde, Economic Development Director: (705) 497-9127 or e-mail: [jason.laronde@anishinabek.ca](mailto:jason.laronde@anishinabek.ca)



2024 Economic Development, Lands & Resources Forum.



Kyle Matthews, economic development manager for Chippewas of Rama First Nation, joined the Business Development Panel on Day 1 of the Anishinabek Nation Economic Development Opportunities Forum.

# EDUCATION SECRETARIAT- MIGIZII DOODEM (EAGLE CLAN)

## LEADERSHIP COUNCIL PORTFOLIOS:

### Employment, Training and Lifelong Learning (Migizii Doodem)

- Deputy Grand Council Chief Chris Plain
- Southeast Board Member James Marsden
- Northern Superior Board Member Chief Louis Kwissiwa

## STAFF

- Paige Sillaby, Interim Director of Education
- Natasha George, Lifelong Learning Coordinator
- Diane Chretien, Mental Health and Well-Being Coordinator

## BACKGROUND

The Anishinabek Nation Education Secretariat assists with political advocacy in education and supports First Nations learners on their lifelong learning journeys. The Education Secretariat provides analysis and recommendations on issues such as early childhood education, elementary, secondary, special education, and post-secondary education. The Education Secretariat is committed to monitoring and analyzing any policy legislative proposal from provincial and federal governments.

The Education Secretariat provides recommendations to ensure the priorities of Anishinabek First Nations are reflected within regional processes. Representation on various education and language advisory committees, including but not limited to, the Ontario Bilateral Education and Learning Table (OBELT), Chiefs and Technical Committee on Language and Learning (CTCLL), Leadership Committee on Languages (LCOL), Ontario Technical Table Interim Funding Approach (OTTIFA), and the First Nations Lifelong Learning Table (FNLLT).

The Education Secretariat provides technical and administrative support for the Anishinabek Nation Chiefs Committee on Education (CCoED).

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024-2025

### Chiefs Committee on Education – “CCoED”

The CCoED was mandated by the Grand Council through Naaknigewin #2018/20. The CCoED is comprised of one Chief member from each of the four regions of the Anishinabek Nation, portfolio holders from the leadership council, and an Elder advisor. The CCoED directs the Anishinabek Nation Education Secretariat by providing advice, strategic planning assistance, and recommendations to assist in all areas of the Secretariat’s responsibility.

### Strategic Plan

In 2024-2025, the Education Secretariat contracted consultants from the Northern Superior Region to develop a departmental strategic plan. All stakeholders were invited to participate in one-on-one interviews and/ or a survey to gather insights and feedback, which directly influence the strategic direction of the department’s educational initiatives over the next five years.

### First Nations Lifelong Learning

The First Nation Lifelong Learning staff supported 10 activities, meetings, and events, including:

- Cultural Support Program

- Gbeyng Biboon “Long Winter” Campaign
- Back-to-School Supplies Initiative (with Social Development and Koganaawsawin staff)
- Make-your-own moccasins virtual learning resource
- Four-part “Igniting Anishinabek Education” summer series
- Feather Carriers youth cohort training (with Social Development)
- Bi-weekly education newsletter
- Two “Weaving Anishinabek Education” feedback sessions on changes to Ontario Senior Course Types and Pathways for Indigenous Language Teacher Certification
- “The Knowledge Keepers: The Four Seasons” virtual land-based education resource
- Two-day Migizi Doodem Education Gathering

### Mental Strategy Supports

The Education Secretariat coordinated three mental health and well-being workshops in November and December 2024: two student workshops and one educator workshop. The workshops featured a First Nations mental health expert and an Elder to help improve access to culturally relevant resources and support for First Nations students and educators.

### Migizi Doodem Education Gathering

The Secretariat hosted a hybrid two-day Education Gathering in Chippewas of Rama First Nation from February 5-6, 2025, with over 40 participants registered. Keynote speakers and presenters included:

- Barbara Nolan, Anishinaabemowin Commissioner;
- Dr. Shelley Knott-Fife, Education Consultant and former Education Specialist at Indigenous Services Canada;
- Julia Candish, Education Consultant and former Director of Education at Chiefs of Ontario; and
- Simon Brascoupe, President and Chief Executive Officer at First Nations Education Administrators Association.

### Department Objectives for 2025 – 2026 Education Secretariat Objectives

- Support implementation of the Education Secretariat strategic plan;
- Advise and support the Chiefs Committee on Education;
- Coordinate the annual Migizi Doodem education gathering;
- Coordinate monthly education calls for the 39 First Nations;
- Coordinate and monitor the relationship with self-government partners;
- Monitor and analyze federal and provincial laws and policies respecting education; and
- Participate in regional education committees.



Student wellness box from the Gbeyng Biboon “Long Winter” Campaign.



*Anishinabek Education Directors gathering at the 3rd Annual Migizi Dodem Education Gathering.*



*Education Secretariat, Social Development Department, and Koganaawsawin staff mailing school supplies for the Back-to-School Supply Initiative for Anishinabek First Nations.*

# GOVERNANCE DEPARTMENT - AJJAAK DOODEM (CRANE CLAN)

The Governance Department is committed to rebuilding the Anishinabek Nation through the revitalization of Anishinabek laws, protocols, and principles by implementing traditional governing structures and decision-making procedures, including ceremony and Anishinaabemowin, the first language of the Anishinabek.

The department is guided by the following political declarations that assert Anishinabek nationhood, sovereignty, unity, and Anishinaabe Aadziwin: Anishinabek Declaration (1980); Anishinabek Nation E-Dbendaagzjig Naaknigewin (2009); Anishinabek Nation Declaration on E'Dbendaagzjig (2025), Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe (2011); Anishinabek Nation Chi-Naaknigewin (2012); and Anishinaabe Giizhigad (November 2021).

## STAFF

- Dave Shawana, Director
- Kevin Restoule, Government Relations Coordinator

## The Governance Department advocates and facilitates:

1. Nation-building and governance-related initiatives to protect and advance the political goals, values, and aspirations of the Anishinabek Nation and Anishinabek member First Nations.
2. Government-to-government relations, asserting jurisdiction, and advocating for the implementation of rights to cultural and heritage management into policy and law-making authorities.
3. Anishinabek Nation unity and strategic collaboration support.
4. Key traditional governance-related capacity development activities.
5. Anishinaabemowin acquisition, revitalization, reclamation, and preservation.

## BILATERAL TABLES

Engagement between the Anishinabek Nation and representatives from the Government of Ontario has resulted in ongoing partnerships and commitment to the implementation of UNDRIP within provincial legislation. The Bilateral Tables continue to advocate for the support and expansion of the FASD, Prevention-Focused Customary Care, and Indian Residential Schools programs, in addition to capacity support for the Anishinabek Nation Infrastructure Department.

## HERITAGE AND BURIALS

The Heritage and Burials provides political advocacy for the implementation of First Nation rights to culture and heritage management in policy and legislation, support for the assertion of jurisdiction through the revitalization of community-developed consultation protocols, and outreach support for Anishinabek First Nations seeking to protect and return Ancestors, sacred items, and sacred sites.

## ANISHINABEK NATION E-NIIGANWIDOOD/COMMISSIONERS AND NATION COUNCILS

The Anishinaabemowin (language), E'Dbendaagzjig (citizenship), and Naaknigewin (governance) E-niigaanwidood (Commissioners) are mandated by the Chiefs-in-Assembly and provide high-level oversight and support to the Anishinabek Nation and member First Nations regarding Anishinaabemowin, E'dbendaagzjig, and governance-related issues. The Getzidjig (Elders), Kwe-Wuk (Women), Eshki-niigijig (Youth), Niniwag (Men), and Niizhwaadziwag (2SLGBTQQIA+) Advisory Councils also offer guidance and support to Anishinaabe Governance.

## ANISHINABEK STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

The Governance Department continues to support strategic coordination and alliances between self-governing entities, Anishinabek Leadership, E-niigaanwidood, Nation Council, Political Advocacy, and Anishinabek First Nations. Relationship agreements have been established to offer the opportunity to work together by providing support, expertise, guidance, and assistance, and where appropriate, to fulfill the principles of Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe (One Anishinaabe Family) and Anishinaabe Aadziwin.

## ANISHINAABEMOWIN

The Anishinabek Nation's Chiefs-in-Assembly have put forward a resolution acknowledging Anishinaabemowin as the official language for the Anishinabek Nation, which is further supported by the Anishinabek Nation's Chi-Naaknigewin. The Anishinaabemowin mandate is supported by the Enkiitmajig Wii-aabiziitoong Anishinaabemowin, a committee made up of highly regarded language keepers, teachers, and advocates from the Anishinabek Nation. The committee operates by way of Terms of Reference and a Strategic Plan that guides the important work of Anishinaabemowin preservation, reclamation, acquisition, and revitalization.

## ANISHINAABE GIIZHIGAD

In support of Naaknigewin #2022-04, the Governance Department supports the coordination and implementation of Anishinaabe Giizhigad, which celebrates the adoption of the Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe and the Anishinabek Nation Chi-Naaknigewin that was held on June 6, 2012, in Sheguiandah First Nation and enacted through Pipe Ceremony. The Anishinabek Nation have officially made Anishinaabe Giizhigad part of the proceedings of the Grand Council Assembly. Anishinabek First Nations also celebrate Anishinaabe Giizhigad by planning community-based activities for their E'dbendaagzjig.

## ANISHINABEK VETERANS

In support of Grand Council mandates, the Governance Department provides advocacy efforts to the Anishinabek Chiefs Veterans Committee, which is responsible for improving the lives of Anishinabek Nation Veterans and ensuring they are cared for appropriately and recognized for their bravery and service—those who are serving, have served and returned, and the Anishinabek Veterans that did not make it back.

## PROPOSED 2025/26 ACTIVITIES

1. Continued advocacy efforts on behalf of the Anishinabek Nation.
2. Anishinabek Nation E-niigaanwidood, Nation Council and Chiefs Veterans Committee Coordination, and Leadership support.
3. Ensure that inclusion and advocacy will take place to better support Anishinabek Veterans.
4. Collaboration work plan in support of the Anishinabek Nation Chi-Naaknigewin implementation.
5. Support the implementation of the Anishinaabemowin Strategic Plan.
6. Implementation and support for Anishinaabe Aadziwin.

For information, please contact:  
Dave Shawana, Director  
Dave.shawana@anishinabek.ca

# HEALTH SECRETARIAT - MUKWAA DOODEM (BEAR CLAN)

## VISION STATEMENT

Minomadzawin of the Anishinabek (Good Health for Our People)

## LEADERSHIP COUNCIL DOODEM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:

- Northern Superior Regional Chief Melvin Hardy, Health, and Healing Portfolio

## STAFF

Nipissing Head Office

- Jamie Restoule, Director
- Michelle Irvine, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Manager
- Stephanie Peplinskie, Community Health Programs Manager
- Priscilla Goulais, IHWS Communications Coordinator
- Julie Harris, Diabetes Navigator
- Christian Hebert, Jordan's Principle Navigator
- Jesse Johnson, Health Transformation Communications Officer
- Charlene Lalonde, Jordan's Principle Payment Assistant
- Laura Liberty, HIV/AIDS Coordinator
- Gerrilynn Manitowabi, Health Transformation Lead
- Ben Naveau, Administrative Services Assistant
- Jessica Pamajewon, Health Transformation Administrative Coordinator
- Lisa Restoule-Brazier, Health Transformation Engagement and Working Group Coordinator
- Cynthia Roy, Finance Coordinator
- May Toulouse, Federal Policy Analyst

Curve Lake Satellite Office

- Chochi Knott, Southeast/Southwest FASD Regional Worker
- Janine McCue, AHWS Community Support Worker

Fort William Satellite Office

- Lynda Banning, FASD Regional Program Worker

Munsee Delaware Satellite Office

- Marina Plain, Jordan's Principle Navigator

Sudbury Satellite Office

- Loretta Nootchtai, Health Transformation Project Manager
- Katie Pine, Opioid Strategic Planning Specialist

## HIGHLIGHTS 2023-2024 MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTIONS

### HIV PROGRAM

Regional sessions were offered in Northern Superior, Lake Huron, and Southeast for frontline addictions workers focusing on HIV transmission, testing, current trends, anti-stigma and cultural practices as prevention. Additional community workshops were offered in Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, Beausoleil First Nation, Nipissing First Nation, Red Rock Indian Band, and Sheshegwaning First Nation.

The HIV program assisted with the Mental Health and Opioid Addiction Conference, 10th annual Anishinabek Nation Health conference, and co-hosted Ontario First Nation's HIV Education Circle Waawaajii'idiyang gathering.

The HIV program also hosted the Bmosedaa nga bmi zhaawaad gitziminnag Gathering-Walking Where Our Ancestors Have Gone for frontline workers to deepen understanding of culture as prevention

when providing harm reduction and addressing substance misuse. The program also hosted a health retreat for women living with HIV to provide training and self-employment skills. HIV advocates also participated in three conferences and four community sessions sharing experiences of living with HIV. Professional development virtual sessions include Canadians AIDS HIV Research conference, CATIE HIV knowledge network webinars, Governance gathering, Water Consortium, and COO Health Forum.

In-person training includes Trauma Informed Care, Indigenous Research Paradigm, Family Well-Being Training, Ninaatigoons Learning Anishinaabemowin, Cultural Ceremonies, and Creation Story by Jim Dumont. G'chi meegwechwayndam to the frontline workers working tirelessly to improve the health of our First Nations.

### FEDERAL POLICY ANALYST

The Health Policy Analyst provides advocacy and liaison with the Federal Government (ISC, Health Canada) on issues and programs of importance for the Anishinabek Nation members in addition to working with organizations such as Chiefs of Ontario to provide a collective voice in advocating to ISC on issues as they impact all First Nations. One major focus this past fiscal year was on Jordan's Principle as ISC has changed direction on the funding processes and eligibility criteria.

The Health Policy Analyst participates on the NIHB Working Group, led by COO which acts as an advocacy group on NIHB concerns. The Health Policy Analyst liaises with FNIHB on non-insured health benefits as issues that emerge and shares NIHB updates with the Anishinabek Nation communities. The Health Policy Analyst has been supporting the Southeast Area Health Board as Chairperson attending meetings that take place quarterly where they network, share information, and collaborate on health-related issues. This often includes bringing in presenters and resource people including government representatives. A collaborative effort with the Southeast Area Health Board resulted in securing additional mental health crisis team funding from ISC for the fiscal year. The Health Policy Analyst participates in the Health Secretariat events such as the Anishinabek Advisory Committee on Health (AACoH), Annual Diabetes Conference, Mental Health Conference, and the Annual Health Conference

### COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAMS

#### Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC)

Just under 300 Anishinabek Nation babies were born on-reserve in 2024-25 and diaper bags were once again distributed to each new mom. The diaper bag program is ongoing, as it has become an important tool for the program. This past year, we were able to offer Indigenous Lactation certified training; 15 HBHC frontline workers attended and are now certified. Many of the HBHC frontline workers attended the Anishinabek Nation Health conference as well as the FASD conference with a day for HBHC frontline workers, which also offered a presentation on post-partum depression and trans talk. HBHC Frontline workers are an important part of the healthcare team in the communities and we are always looking for additional training.

#### Responsible Gambling

Online gambling is accessible through all electronic devices, resulting in youth accessing it, creating a larger gambling problem. Communities promoted responsible gambling and healthy living as strategies, particularly exercise and mindful practices. We utilized local radio stations throughout Ontario to educate community members about the risks associated with gambling and gaming for a total of eight weeks. Feedback from listeners expressed appreciation for our campaign.

# HEALTH SECRETARIAT - MUKWAA DOODEM (BEAR CLAN) CONTIN'D

## **Diabetes Program**

38 First Nations accessed annual diabetes-related funding for 2023-2025; engagement from the 39th community occurred at the end of the fiscal. The Diabetes Navigator will be working more closely with this community for 2024/2025 to identify potential barriers and ways in which the Anishinabek Nation can support their health promotion initiatives. Diabetes-related projects in our First Nations included health fairs, traditional medicine workshops, diabetes screening days, traditional cooking classes, footcare services, and youth engagement activities.

The Diabetes Program hosted its 3rd Annual Anishinabek Nation Diabetes Conference that had an attendance of approximately 100 individuals. Topics included Helping People Manage Diabetes in the Context of Homelessness, Anishinaabe Sleep Practices, Cultural Wellness + The Science Behind It, and various community spotlights.

Anishinabek Nation continues to partner with the Indigenous Diabetes Health Circle (IDHC) to offer screenings for diabetic retinopathy; early screenings reduce the impact of vision loss amongst our Nations. These tests can sometimes incur a fee and/or no wraparound care when done with eye doctors or specialists. There is no charge when we offer this service through Anishinabek Nation. This fiscal, we received a brand-new camera with updates technology and better efficacy.

We continue to see the importance of DR screening in our communities. In addition, we have screened individuals with known vision loss. Barriers to treatment for these individuals have included things such as referral to a specialist that does not direct bill to NIHB. The Diabetes Program is working to ensure these individuals are properly referred and barriers are eliminated. In addition, we can implement further referrals for vision aids, service guide dogs, and related services through the Canadian National Institute of the Blind (CNIB) or Vision Loss Rehabilitation Canada (VLRC). We have built working relationships with both.

## **JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE**

The Jordan's Principle Navigators fielded questions and offered guidance, referrals, and advice in addition to providing application services.

The JP program will continue providing community visits and information sessions, and the restructuring of current resources to better serve our citizens and member First Nations in their efforts to receive Jordan's Principle assistance for 2025-26 and beyond.

To alleviate the long delays in Jordan's Principle payments, the Anishinabek Nation submitted a proposal to Jordan's Principle Service Access Resolution Fund (SARF) to take on the service payment function for Jordan's Principle for our members. The Anishinabek Nation would pay for the services of applications approved by ISC, alleviating the lengthy delay in funds being processed after approval. We received approval for the proposal in late 2023-24 and a JP Payment Assistant.

## **IHWS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT WORKER (CDSW)**

The Community Development Support Worker continues to communicate with the First Nation Community Wellness Workers. Up-

to-date reporting requirements and additional support are offered to those First Nation Community Wellness Workers as required. Funding continues to flow to the Community Wellness Worker Program and sharing of new information, training opportunities, and subsidies to attend workshops/conferences is also offered.

## **COMMUNITY WELLNESS WORKER (CWW) PROGRAM**

A major highlight of this past year was the 10th Annual Anishinabek Nation Health Conference that took place in October 2024 in Sault Ste. Marie; attendance, networking, gathering, and sharing of information was a huge success.

The Community Wellness Worker program continues to report on the successes of Land-Based programming, Traditional Healing, Cultural and Wellness programming, and Health and Wellness. There has been an increase in participation and programming focusing on Youth, Mental Health and Addictions, and Food Insecurity to name a few. Challenges include the lack of funding, isolation concerning information and technology, and staff turnover. Moving forward, the CDSW will attempt to visit First Nations CWW programs to further acknowledge and report on successes, issues, and challenges.

The Ministry of Health has provided additional funding for the 2024-25 fiscal year to support the Community Wellness Worker Program. This funding was to support First Nation program sites and be spent adhering to service targets already established within the Anishinabek Nation's Community Wellness Worker programs. Funds were used to increase salaries, replace equipment (small capital expenditures), augment programming, etc.

## **OPIOID STRATEGY**

The Opioid Strategy at Anishinabek Nation has led several key initiatives throughout the year to strengthen community responses to the opioid crisis and support holistic, culturally grounded approaches to healing and wellness. This work has included the Maamwi Gka Wijiiji Nokiimdimi webinar series, which created a virtual space for community members, Elders, and service providers to engage in meaningful conversations around harm reduction, mental health, and culturally safe care. The team also hosted the Mental Health, Addictions & Opioid Conference, bringing together a wide range of participants to share knowledge, best practices, and community-based solutions.

Other highlights from the year include the coordination of trauma-informed training for frontline workers in partnership with the Crisis & Trauma Resource Institute (CTRI), and a land-based youth learning initiative delivered in collaboration with Gwekwaadziwin Miikan, supporting youth in reconnecting with traditional knowledge and identity.

This year also marked significant progress on the development of Naandwechige Miikan: Mino-bimaadziwin Nakaazwinan (The Healing Path: Tools for Wellness) - a community-centered safer supply implementation guide designed to support Anishinabek communities in exploring and implementing harm reduction strategies grounded in Indigenous values and practices. The Opioid Strategy also supports crisis response planning and training to enhance local capacity, and contributed to broader advocacy efforts, including a presentation on Indigenous harm reduction to the Chiefs of Ontario.

## **FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER (FASD)**

The FASD Program connected with many communities and members over the year, providing workshops, capacity trainings as well as health and program promotions. Workshops included: Moss Bag teachings, Feast Bundles, Liquid Smudge, FASD Capacity Training, and Caring for Mother Earth Project sessions.

In a partnership with the Labour Market and Development Department, the FASD team provided training and support to the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Centre's. This project provided the FASD program with additional funding to complete the work.

In February, the FASD Program hosted an FASD and Neurodivergent Conference, where there were 150 participants registered who received information about Neurodivergence and Addictions, FASD/ Mental Health and the Justice System, ways to support the nervous system, and cultural workshops and stories of strength through those with living experience of FASD.

A highlight for the program this year was the release of the resource *Migizi and Giniw's Important Journey* written by our Northern Superior FASD Worker Lynda Banning and Lyne Soramaki from the Thunder Bay District Health Unit and illustrated by Emery Tasheff from the Communications Department. The book launch received large media attention and will be used by the program as a resource for youth to discuss topics of caring for Mother Earth and caring for our bodies to support future generations.

The FASD team were asked to speak at various conferences to share the work they are doing and promote advocacy and capacity training for FASD and Neurodivergence. Southeast/Southwest Regional Worker and FASD Program Manager presented a keynote address at the Chiefs of Ontario Health Forum, which was well received as they increase capacity training and advocacy efforts in establishing effective neurodivergent supports for Anishinabek Nation communities.

The communities continue to request more information and specific training for other neurodivergence such as Autism, ADHD, and dementia. This has led to the FASD Program submitting a proposal to the Ministry of Children Community and Social Services for increased FASD funding and the inclusion of funding for all neurodivergence and acquired brain injuries.

### **MCCSS - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Indigenous Professional Development Fund is intended to build knowledge and capacity of child and youth mental health workers serving Indigenous children and youth by providing health service the funds to purchase and/or facilitate access to training and professional development opportunities.

This past fiscal year, the funding for Mental Health and Addictions, Professional Development provides training dollars to support AN First Nations to build capacity in Mental Health and Addictions for those individuals working with children and youth and/or families. For the fiscal year funds have been provided to three First Nations and we will continue to provide financial support for any Anishinabek Nation First Nation interested in taking part in any certificate/professional development training as needed and provide training for community members.



*Health Secretariat staff, January 2025.*



*3rd Annual Diabetes Conference, Rama First Nation.*



*Lyne Soramaki from the Thunder Bay District Health Unit and FASD Worker Lynda Banning.*

# HEALTH TRANSFORMATION - MUKWAA DOODEM (BEAR CLAN)

## LEADERSHIP COUNCIL DOODEM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:

- Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige
- Anishinabek Nation Deputy Grand Council Chief Chris Plain
- Lake Huron Regional Chief Scott McLeod
- Northern Superior Regional Chief Melvin Hardy
- Southeast Regional Chief Marsha Smoke
- Southwest Regional Chief Joe Miskokomon

## STAFF

- Jamie Restoule, Health Director
- Gerrilynn Manitowabi, Health Transformation Lead
- Loretta Nootchtai, Health Transformation Project Manager
- Lisa Restoule-Brazier, Health Transformation Engagement & Working Group Coordinator
- Jesse Johnson, Health Transformation Communications Officer
- Jess Pamajewon, Health Transformation Administrative Coordinator

Throughout the 2024-25 fiscal year, the Health Transformation Team has met with seven Anishinabek First Nations, which included discussions with Chiefs and Councils, Health Department staff, and Health Committees. The team has also set up Health Transformation booths at many conferences throughout the year, including Community Health Fairs and Open Houses, as another means to engage community members.

The Health Transformation Team continues its efforts in relationship-building as interest from external health service providers, agencies, and organizations has increased. The team has met with organizations such as Giiwednong Health Link and Indigenous Primary Health Care Council in relation to the services provided to Anishinabek Nation First Nations and off-reserve membership. In addition, the Nipissing Wellness Ontario Health Team met with the Health Transformation Team throughout the year in an effort to better understand both parties' mandates relating to Health Transformation. Lastly, the team has built great working relations with other Provincial Territory Organizations, including Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN), and the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians. Information sharing and presentations at gatherings have been both beneficial and informative to the project.

The Health Transformation Working Group meetings continued throughout the year with representatives of First Nation Health Directors, Chief and Council members, and health staff. Highlights from the Working Group meetings include presentations from Giiwednong Health Link, First Nations Infrastructure Institute, First Nations Digital Health Ontario, Ontario Health, and the All Nations Healing Hospital. At each meeting, the team tries to include at least one breakout session activity for attendees to participate in. This year, breakout sessions were delivered on topics related to the Cancer Care Strategy and First Nation Infrastructure.

To conclude the fiscal year, a Chief & Council Symposium was held on March 25, 2025, where 23 First Nation elected leadership were in attendance and learned about the successes and challenges of implementing Health Transformation from key voices at the First Nations Health Authority, Nishnawbe Aski Nation, and previous negotiation team leads from other Anishinabek Nation self-governing agreements. The outcomes from the Symposium identified that participants were motivated and interested to explore what Health

Transformation could offer to their communities, reinforced the idea and need for engagement, and importance of evaluating the health status of each community. Overall, a collective theme that transpired throughout the day was that the current health system was not meeting their needs and that health transformation could be the best way forward to support their communities.

Future planning for the Health Transformation Team includes more engagement with a focus on community member sessions and health staff in communities, and initiating assessments of Health Centers within Anishinabek Nation First Nations.



Patrick Madahbee (right) spoke at the Chiefs Symposium on Health Transformation on March 25 in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.



# LABOUR MARKET DEVELOPMENT - MIGIZII DOODEM (LOON CLAN)

## LEADERSHIP COUNCIL DOODEM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:

Southeast Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief James R. Marsden

## STAFF

Polly Bobiwash, Director  
Tammy Cayer-Dokis, ELCC QIP Manager  
Janet Blackned, Senior Program Officer  
Carolyn Doxtator, ELCC Coordinator  
Marcia Manitowabi, Finance Coordinator  
Melanie Manitowabi, ELCC QIP Researcher and Special Projects Lead  
Carolynne Warton, ELCC QIP Researcher  
Jennilee Peplinskie, Program Officer  
Becky Pineo, Program Officer  
Jenny Boutin, Administrative Assistant

## INDIGENOUS SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT TRAINING PROGRAM

The Anishinabek Nation has held a Labour Market Development Agreement with Canada since 1996. We are currently implementing the First Nation Labour Market Strategy under the 10-year Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program (ISETP) Agreement with Employment and Social Development Canada. This strategy is working to reduce employment, skills, and earning gaps between First Nation citizens and non-First Nation Canadians. The ISETP includes a stronger focus on training for higher quality, better-paying jobs by assisting individuals and communities to gain greater skills and employment opportunities that support long-term career success.

Through the ISETP, First Nation Labour Market Agreement Holders deliver programs and services to their communities. First Nation Employment and Training programs and services provided by the eight Anishinabek Nation Local Delivery Mechanism offices are critical in assisting First Nation citizens to gain the skills and training required to enter and progress in the labour market.

Local Delivery Mechanisms deliver employment and training programs and services that address the labour market needs of workers and employers in the designated First Nations. This model provides for maximum local decision-making and response to local employment and training needs.

## EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE

The Anishinabek Nation Labour Market Development Department's suite of programs includes the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC) Framework offered to all Anishinabek Nation First Nations.

This initiative is to support and promote high-quality holistic First Nation Early Learning and Child Care programs and services. Throughout 2024-2025, the Labour Market Development Department administered Early Learning and Childcare agreements with First Nations, networked with First Nation Child Care representatives, and provided capacity-building activities.

## FIRST NATION AND INUIT CHILD CARE CENTRE INITIATIVE

The Anishinabek Nation also delivers the First Nation and Inuit Child Care Centre Initiative (FNICCI) to nine participating First Nation Child Care Centers in eight First Nations. FNICCI Childcare funds are utilized for the enhancement and enrichment of existing licensed Child Care Centres.

## LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION/SKILLS INVENTORY PILOT PROJECT

The Indigenous Early Learning and Childcare Quality Improvement Project (IELCC QIP) focuses on Anishinabek principles and implementing Indigenous practices within the Early Childhood Education and building systems of care and learning through the creation of a high-quality (IELCC) network. The project will conceptualize and operationalize the IELCC framework goals and strategic action by bringing together expertise, experience, and community connections to jointly implement the Anishinabek early learning collaborative in the areas of early childhood education and research.

## 2025-2026 OBJECTIVES

Fiscal year 2025-2026 continues the implementation of the ISETP while adjusting and adapting to changing economic conditions. Assisting Labour Market partners in helping citizens develop skills for higher quality, better-paying jobs that support long-term career success. The implementation of Indigenous culture, tradition, and language in Child Care Centres will continue to be a priority. Agreements under the ISET Program will be in effect until 2029, providing funding and planning stability and predictability.

Over the coming year, the Labour Market Development Department will be working towards implementing the ISET, IELCC, and FNICCI Programs by:

- Employment and Training Local Delivery Mechanism support through capacity-building, policy, and reporting support.
- Supporting and enhancing the capacity of First Nations Child Care Providers to customize culturally appropriate services to support their children in the community with a focus on enhancing cultural and language programming.
- Clearly define the concepts of high-quality Anishinabek Nation Early Learning environment indicators through inquiry research.



Director of Labour Market and Development Polly Bobiwash on Day 2 of the 2024 Anishinabek Nation Fall Grand Council Assembly.

# AKI-GITTAGIM-MAGOON LANDS & RESOURCES - GIIGOON DOODEM (FISH CLAN)

## VISION STATEMENT

The mission of the Lands and Resources Department is to foster a better quality of life by ensuring access to natural resources in support of the goals, principles, and values of the Anishinabek Nation. Values such as respecting Mother Earth, we foster change that will sustain our lands and resources, preserving the integrity of the Seventh Generation, and our Anishinaabe Bimaadziwin. In addition to awareness and communication, with a continual effort to understand our communities, we are committed to facilitating education and sharing current events and traditional wisdom.

## LEADERSHIP COUNCIL DOODEM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:

Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige  
Deputy Grand Council Chief Chris Plain  
Northern Superior Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief Mel Hardy  
Lake Huron Regional Chief Scott McLeod  
Southeast Regional Chief Marsha Smoke  
James Marsden, Board Member

## STAFF

Jason Laronde, Director  
Elaine Commanda, Administrative Services Assistant  
Rhonda Gagnon, Manager  
Lorieann Whittaker, Policy Analyst  
Francis Gallo, Program Coordinator  
Alyssa Ray, Policy Analyst

## 2024-2025 HIGHLIGHTS

The Lands and Resources Department aims to enhance community engagement, promote sustainable development, and address environmental and resource management challenges within the Anishinabek Nation.

## MINERALS & MINES

The Lands and Resources Department and the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEMs) collaborate to enhance community education and engagement in mineral development and mining processes. The goals include providing education, ensuring meaningful engagement in the mineral sector, promoting mining opportunities, analyzing mining policies, and offering support and expertise to member First Nations. The Anishinabek Nation – Ministry of Mines Joint Advisory Council meets quarterly to address mineral and mine development challenges. Mining Regional Round Tables are held regularly to discuss updates and opportunities.

## VALUES & OCCUPANCY MAPPING

The Lands and Resources Department supports the Values Mapping Project and continues to address minerals and mines issues within Anishinabek territory. The Lands and Resources GeoHub provides data, information, resources, and tools, tailored for the Nation.

## ANISHINABEK ONTARIO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (AORMC)

The Anishinabek Ontario Resource Management Council (AORMC) strengthens relationships, improves communications, and enhances natural resource management with the Ministry of Natural Resources. The AORMC meets quarterly to discuss natural resource matters. The goals included providing education, ensuring meaningful engagement, promoting opportunities, analyzing policies, and

offering support and expertise to member First Nations.

## AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECURITY

The Anishinabek Nation collaborates with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Agribusiness (OMAFRA) to support agri-food development, conduct training, and enhance communications for the purpose of enhancing food security and sovereignty within Anishinabek Nation. Activities include education and awareness, promoting opportunities, providing resources, and advocating for Anishinabek communities at the policy level.

## ENVIRONMENT

The Lands and Resources Department secured funding from the provincial and federal governments to support water and environmental priorities. Funding initiatives focus on climate change strategies, strategic environmental planning, education and awareness on Great Lakes management, and adapting Impact Assessment toolkits for Anishinabek First Nations.

## SPIRIT OF THE LAND

The Lands and Resources Department has been actively building relationships with the Impact Assessment Agency Canada (IAAC) and the First Nations Major Project Coalition (FNMPCC), supporting and promoting the Spirit of the Land Toolkit and its development of methods and tools that will integrate policy and technical guidance for characterizing and valuing (i.e., costing, project-specific and cumulative effects on Indigenous cultural rights and values) in support of consultation and accommodation processes on major projects.

## 2025-2026 OBJECTIVES

### MINERALS & MINES

- Increased community engagement in the mineral and mining activities in Ontario;
- Provide technical enhancement and support through the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC);
- Support and reinstate the Anishinabek Nation and Ministry of Mines Bilateral Leadership Forum meetings;
- Support community capacity development, mining opportunities, and increased Anishinabek participation in the mining sector;
- Enhance and build relationships with the mining sector (proponents, academia, suppliers, etc.); and
- Increase youth participation at JAC, round tables, industry events, and conferences.

### VALUES & OCCUPANCY MAPPING

- Support Anishinabek Values Mapping and the development of Anishinabek Nation Resource Development Guidelines;
- Continued work through the regional structure for a Values Mapping Project that will be implemented over the next two years;
- Establish GIS/Values Mapping working group(s);
- Continue to develop and share mineral exploration and mining activity GIS resources; and
- Identify First Nations that will be interested in the values mapping pilot project in relation to the implementation of the Mining Act and identifying sites of Indigenous and cultural significance.

## ANISHINABEK ONTARIO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (AORMC)

- Collaborate with MNR to move forward with regional engagement sessions as per the AORMC restructuring proposal;
- Committed to ensuring that member communities have access to up-to-date information on policies that impact their water, air, lands, and rights.
- Expand on the scope of events and gatherings, including a second Moose Symposium and Cross Cultural Awareness Gathering; and

- Dedicated to supporting Anishinabek First Nations in addressing issues and concerns related to the Ministry of Natural Resources

**ENVIRONMENT**

- Share information with member First Nations related to policy;
- Collaboration with the Chiefs Committee for the Environment and develop work plans on specific regional issues;
- Collaboration with the Eshki-niigijig Advisory Council to assist them in developing an action plan for the personhood of water initiative and support them;
- Report back to the Anishinabek Nation;
- Create a draft Climate Action Plan for community and leadership consideration;
- Provide support to First Nations and their Great Lakes / Freshwater Projects; and
- Continue the work with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) and the Canada Water Agency on Great Lakes issues.

**AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECURITY**

- Work with OMAFA towards a new TPA for the next three years based on insights, recommendations, and gaps from the previous TPA;
- Purchase, deliver, and support the installation of greenhouse kits for six to eight (6-8) member First Nations, as was approved by Indigenous Services Canada’s CCHAP program;
- Continue to monitor and share funding or program support for Anishinabek Nation as well as member First Nations;
- Reestablish the relationship with Eshki-niigijig Advisory Council to be further involved in food and agriculture activities;
- Promote and provide opportunities for First Nations to build capacity through education and awareness, training, tool kits, and resources; and
- Provide updates to leadership on upcoming priority issues.

**SPIRIT OF THE LAND**

- Develop tools and resources that support the First Nations in collecting baseline data such as values, costing, and project-specific and cumulative effects and impacts;
- Collaboration with the Chiefs Committee for the Environment and on specific regional issues, initiatives, and opportunities;
- Establish a technical working group that can assist in the development of methodologies, tools, and test case for implementation;
- Report back to the Anishinabek Nation; and
- Education and awareness, including outreach, share information data, and provide updates on the use of the tool kits for test case.

If you have any comments or questions, or would like additional information on any of the Lands and Resources initiatives, please contact Jason Laronde, Lands and Resources Director: (705) 497-9127 or e-mail: [jason.laronde@anishinabek.ca](mailto:jason.laronde@anishinabek.ca)



Mike Diabo of Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg was a panellist for the Traditional Knowledge and Governance for the Protection of Moose Populations in and Around La Verendrye Park, Quebec at the Mooz Maawanjiding – Moose Symposium in Ketegaunseebee from September 4 to 5, 2024.





**ANISHINABEK NATION**  
LANDS & RESOURCES





**Agenda Highlights**

*Theme:*  
Reflections of the past, present and future of the Great Lakes

*Master of Ceremony:*  
Pat Makabawe

*Speakers:*  
Deborah McGinnar  
Anishinabek Citizenship and Water Governance

Dr. Susan Chiblow  
Indigenous Strategic Advisor: Reflections of the Great Lakes

Clara Dohkabevisens-McGregor  
Leading our Waters: Addressing Water Treaties through Traditional Knowledge



Register Here

**WATER CONSORTIUM**

**MARCH 18-19, 2025**

**Manitoulin Hotel and Conference Centre**  
Little Current, Ontario  
Lake Huron Region

The focus will be on traditional water teachings, Government and First Nations World Café, Personhood of Water panel.

**To register, visit:**  
<https://anishinabek.live/wcreg25>

**More information, contact:**  
[lorieann.whittaker@anishinabek.ca](mailto:lorieann.whittaker@anishinabek.ca)

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# GIIGIDO WIJI GIKENDAMOWIN LEGAL - GIIGOON DOODEM (FISH CLAN)

## VISION STATEMENT

To provide professional legal services to the Anishinabek Nation, Union of Ontario Indians (UOI), Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity, and First Nations we serve.

## LEADERSHIP COUNCIL DOODEM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:

Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige  
Lake Huron Board Member Chief Gerry Duquette  
Northern Superior Board Member Louis Kwissiwa

## STAFF

Fred Bellefeuille B.A. (Hons), LLB, Legal Counsel, Director  
Leanna Farr, Legal Counsel  
Crystal Stevens, Legal Counsel  
Kristy Jones, Justice Manager  
Linda Newhook, Legal Manager

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES – NOOKIYAN MINO BIMAADZIN

The Legal Department was established to provide cost-effective, responsive, and professional legal services to the Anishinabek Nation, Union of Ontario Indians, related corporations, and Anishinabek First Nations.

The goals of the Legal Department are:

- To be the preferred legal advisor for the Anishinabek Nation and entities we serve;
- To support the evolution and operation of the Anishinabek Nation, Union of Ontario Indians;
- To be recognized and leading advisor to Anishinabek First Nations on First Nation legal issues;

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024-2025

The Legal Department supports the day-to-day operations of the Anishinabek Nation including advice and legal review of various issues and documents.

## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CORONER - CHILD AND YOUTH DEATH REVIEW TRANSFORMATION

The Office of the Chief Coroner is seeking to transform its Child and Youth Death Review (CYDR) process towards a more meaningful process for First Nations. Our Legal Department was tasked with planning and hosting engagements surrounding this initiative to receive expertise and guidance from our Anishinabek First Nations on what is needed for meaningful change. Online and hybrid engagements were held in 2024/2025, and the Legal Department developed a final report that contained 30 recommendations to the Office of the Chief Coroner on what is needed for transformation of the CYDR process. This report was endorsed by Chiefs-in-Assembly in October 2024. The report was also shared and presented to child and family service staff of our Anishinabek First Nations and to our Nation Council. The report was presented to the Office of the Chief Coroner, and we will be meeting with the Office of the Chief Coroner to discuss next steps work on implementation of the various recommendations. We will continue to keep Anishinabek Nation leadership informed on the progress of implementation.

## CARING SOCIETY V. CANADA CHRT ADVOCACY & SUPPORTS

The Anishinabek Nation Legal Department has continued to provide legal supports to our Social Development Department/

Koganaawsawin surrounding *Caring Society v. Canada* matters and reform of First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFs) and Jordan's Principle. This has included assistance in advocacy at the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) Final Settlement Agreement Advisory Committee; assisting briefings and presentations for our Anishinabek First Nations surrounding long-term reform; and direct assistance to our Anishinabek First Nations with regards to FNCFs claims (i.e., prevention, band representative, post majority support services, and capital claims) wherever requested. The Ontario Final Agreement on Long-Term Reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program was ratified by Ontario Chiefs on February 26, 2025. We await the next steps in approval by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. We will continue to provide legal supports to our Social Development Department/Koganaawsawin in any next steps surrounding this matter.

## MÉTIS AND WABUN TRIBAL COUNCIL - APPLICATION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW CANADA MNO SELF-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT

The Anishinabek Nation made application to intervene in the above matter in Spring 2023. The court has not yet ruled on any of the many applications to intervene, including ours. The Métis motion to strike Wabun Tribal Council's (Wabun) application (challenge to the Métis agreement) was heard on August 8 and 9, 2024. Subsequently, Wabun withdrew its motion for an interlocutory injunction, which was an interim step to prevent the Métis agreement from proceeding. Canada has amended its proposed legislation concerning the Métis in Ontario and has yet to finalize it. On the August 8, 2024, it was one (1) year since the motion to strike was heard and a letter to the Associate Judge was emailed by the respondent to receive any information on the status of the decision; however, there was no reply. We will keep you updated as things progress further.

## UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ACT

The federal government's action plan for implementing the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)* Act Action Plan was unveiled in June 2023. It details 131 measures designed to transform specific legislation and policy to enhance the rights of our Anishinabek Nation communities. We continue to work on implementing the action plan including the reform of federal laws and policy to greater respect First Nation interests and goals. A report will be shared outlining all actions.

## ENFORCEMENT

The Legal Department has been mandated to work on enforcement of First Nation Laws. Forging successful collaborations with the Anishinabek Nation First Nations and their Policing Services necessitates a reevaluation of the relationship. To address the many issues, it's vital to continue engaging with Anishinabek Nation First Nation Chiefs, leadership, and Policing Services to push for changes in the *Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA)* to acknowledge and financially back the enforcement of First Nations laws. Advocacy efforts aim to revamp the First Nations and Inuit Policing Program (FNIPP) with enhanced oversight to ensure funding is adjusted and monitored to genuinely improve First Nation community safety. Additionally, embedding crucial UNDRIP Articles is key.

## ADDITIONS TO RESERVE (ATR)

The current ATR process is in need of overhaul. Last year, two discussion papers were developed by the Anishinabek Nation with land tenure and legislative perspective on alternatives to the Additions to Reserve process. In the past year, we had consultations with our First Nations, made submission on Canada's preliminary reform recommendations and their report to parliament. We will be addressing and making submissions on future reform

recommendations by government as things progress.

**DATA GOVERNANCE**

The Legal Department has been tasked with leading the advocacy work surrounding data governance. A work plan was developed and internal funds secured for action on this in the 2024-25 fiscal year. The Legal Department has been tasked with leading the advocacy work surrounding data governance. A work plan was developed and internal funds secured for action on this in the 2024-25 fiscal year. The Legal Department developed a Draft Discussion Paper on First Nation Data Governance and Sovereignty and Canada and Ontario’s Legislative Landscape on First Nation Data Governance, Data Management, Privacy, and Access to Information, which was circulated to Anishinabek First Nation leadership for review and feedback. In February and March 2025, the Legal Department hosted a Virtual Workshops Series on Safeguarding Anishinabek Sovereignty, Possession, and Jurisdiction Over Data with the goal of empowering Anishinabek First Nations in building knowledge and capacity surrounding data management and governance. In the upcoming fiscal year, we will continue our work to develop informational and advocacy materials that may be utilized by First Nation leadership and staff to increase their knowledge and advocacy surrounding data governance and sovereignty.



**ENFORCEMENT AND PROSECUTION**

The Legal Department has a representative that attends both the COO Chief’s and Technicians Meetings on Justice and the Tripartite Collaborative Technical Tables on Enforcement and Prosecution of First Nation Laws. At the COO Collaborative Table on the Enforcement and Prosecution, it was confirmed that Justice Canada and the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General are extending the pilot project open to all First Nation and representative organizations in Ontario region. They are accepting applications until October 31, 2025. The pilot project is to retain private lawyers to support the resolution of matters pertaining to infractions of First Nation laws.



**ONTARIO LABOUR RELATIONS BOARD**

An application has been made by the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 793 labour union to unionize the employees of Corbiere and Sons Contracting Inc’s which is wholly owned by M’Chigeeng First Nation. Unionization of First Nation related employees interferes with First Nation affirmative action, preferential hiring, factoring tax exemption in payroll, increases costs, etc. The Anishinabek Nation was granted standing to intervene in the matter in June 2023. We have been involved and made submissions in 2023 to 2025 including submissions on First Nation jurisdiction as well as other issues. The board determined that the employer’s operations fall within the provincial jurisdiction. The Anishinabek Nation Legal Department will be providing submissions on other issues and the duty to consult. The next case management date is August 28, 2025.

**POLITICAL ADVOCACY SUPPORT**

As-needed legal advice was provided regarding legislative change; analysis of proposed regulatory amendments; and significant government policy. We have assisted the Political Office in various issues including treaty rights, taxation issues, labour relations, fishing rights, trap line allocation issues impacting First Nations, freedom of information requests, UNDRIP efforts, Ontario Anti-Racism Act implementation, and various drafting assignments.

**UPCOMING 2025-2026**

In addition to the routine work of supporting the overall internal departmental, corporate, and contract activities of the Anishinabek Nation, other major upcoming activities include supporting UNDRIP Action Plan implementation and supporting the work of B’Maakonigan work in First Nation law development.

**Virtual Workshops**  
Safeguarding Anishinabek Sovereignty, Possession, and Jurisdiction Over Data

**Empowering Anishinabek First Nations in building knowledge and capacity surrounding data management and governance**

The Anishinabek Nation Legal Department invites leadership, staff and citizens of our Anishinabek First Nations to join our upcoming virtual series of workshops to learn and share about foundational principles and best practices in First Nations data sovereignty.

<p><b>Workshop 1</b> Foundations in First Nations Data Governance February 12th, 2025 10:00am - 3:00pm</p> <p>Overview of the Legislative Landscape on First Nations Data Management, Privacy and Access to Information</p> <p>Data Back-Asserting and Supporting Indigenous Data Sovereignty</p> <p>Tips for First Nation Administrators &amp; Information and Data Sharing Agreements</p>	<p><b>Workshop 2</b> Data Governance in Lands and Cultural Sectors March 19th, 2025 12:00pm - 3:00pm</p> <p>Protecting First Nations Sensitive Lands and Cultural Spaces Data</p> <p>Protecting First Nations Sensitive Lands and Cultural Spaces Data</p> <p>COO’s First Nation Regional Information Governance Centre</p>	<p><b>Workshop 3</b> Data Governance in Indian Residential School &amp; Health Sectors March 27th, 2025 10:00am - 3:00pm</p> <p>First Nation Perspectives in Data Governance &amp; Sovereignty</p> <p>Anishinabek Nation Perspectives in Accessing and Protecting IRS Data</p> <p>Six Nations Survivors Secretariat</p> <p>McMaster/Anishinabek Nation CICA Collaboration</p>
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The workshops will take place by zoom, please register with the QR code.

For more information, please contact Kristy Jones at [kristy.jones@anishinabek.ca](mailto:kristy.jones@anishinabek.ca) or Linda Newhook at [linda.newhook@anishinabek.ca](mailto:linda.newhook@anishinabek.ca)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85826175294?pwd=tXAvRzBNKzQoTe9K8ktwJTN4GU.1>

# RECONCILIATION - WAAWAASHKESH DOODEM (DEER CLAN)

## LEADERSHIP COUNCIL DOODEM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:

Chief Kimberly Bressette  
Southeast Regional Chief Marsha Smoke  
Southwest Regional Chief Joe Miskokomon  
Chief Tim Ominika

## STAFF

Kelsey Anger, Reconciliation Manager  
Suzanne Goulais-Deering, Reconciliation Navigator  
Monica Mixemong, Reconciliation Administrative Assistant

## OVERVIEW

The Reconciliation Team has four ongoing, key goals developed through guidance from Chiefs, Chiefs-in-Assembly mandates, lead community technicians, and Survivors of various Institutions. These are: 1. Commemoration and support for Survivors; 2. Research, information acquisition, and information sharing; 3. Education and outreach; and 4. Support and advocating for Caretaker (lead) Communities and Survivor Communities, when requested.

Some accomplishments over the year which support the achieving of these goals are included:

## COMMEMORATION AND SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS

In honour of Orange Shirt Day and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the Reconciliation team coordinated a city-wide event that combined efforts from the North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre, Indigenous Hub, and Anishinabek Nation to bring together Indigenous and non-Indigenous people alike to listen to Survivors, share in a feast, and demonstrate support through a walk along the waterfront, toting orange flags, signs, and shirts. In addition, the Anishinabek Nation Indian Residential School (IRS) Student Monument remained open for nominations and the names of students has been updated and the surrounding monument garden updated and maintained.

We continue to promote the utilization of the Community Assistance Program, a network of wellness professionals available free of charge, 24 hours a day, to provide virtual and phone counseling and support to citizens of the 39 Anishinabek Nation member First Nations.

During the inaugural IRS Research Methodologies conference in October 2024, the Survivors in attendance took part in a lived experience information collection. These comments, thoughts, needs, and concerns are compiled into a document to be shared with government partners.

The Reconciliation Team once again hosted the Surviving to Thriving session, with a focus on building capacity within communities to support Survivors of trauma through the facilitation of healing and Talking Circles. This was a two-module session where 25 Anishinabek Nation community members and supporting staff took part.

## RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SHARING

The Reconciliation Team has been utilizing the services of an Anishinabe historian who has been able to research and provide communities with relevant historical information, as well as support communities with building capacity in archival research by accompanying groups to various ecclesiastic and federal archives.

As recommended by our Anishinabek Nation Caring Community group and the Office of the Special Interlocutor's Final Report, we have begun focusing on researching and examining the correlation between First Nations, Indian Residential Schools and other institutions of assimilation, and related deaths and burials. This firstly requires advocacy to the provincial and federal governments to recognize their role within these institutions and provide adequate resources for research and healing-related activities.

The Reconciliation Team also provides support to Indian Residential School Survivors and families in accessing school records through the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR), as well as through lead communities and other archives.

## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

In line with Naakinagan-#2024-20, Building Capacity in Remote Technologies and Expertise in the Search for Unmarked Burials on Reserve, we coordinated the Indigenous Re-Search Paradigm, a two-day training for community technicians to build skills and knowledge in Indigenous research, as well as facilitated archival introductions and informational sessions with the Nisoonag Partnership (Serpent River First Nation, Sagamok, and Mississauga #8 First Nation), and Red Rock Indian Band to support the reclamation of their own history.

Educational videos have been created that focus on Sixties Scoop, intergenerational, and Day School Survivors, these are made public on the Anishinabek Nation YouTube channel and can be utilized for curriculum within schools and education of the general public. The Reconciliation Department created various resources, available for free to any AN community, including a guidebook for coordinating trauma-informed gatherings (Finding the Children: Key Considerations for Gatherings), produced the Little Butterfly Girl Colouring Book in English and French, which tells the story of a young girl attending Residential School and her struggle to reintegrate back into her community.

## SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY FOR CARETAKER AND SURVIVOR COMMUNITIES

As per Naakinagan-#2023-03 Anishinabek Nation support for First Nation led initiatives in the search for missing children and unmarked burials at previous, federally-recognized Indian Residential School sites, Reconciliation focuses much of our effort on supporting and seeking direction from the Anishinabek Nation Caring Community group. This group meets at least once a quarter to bring together technicians leading the sacred work to provide a safe venue for exchanging ideas, concerns, information, and resources. Recently, this group has expanded to include technicians from communities impacted by Indian Residential Schools who are beginning the journey to uncover the impact of the schools in their community. This includes providing consultation, assistance with proposals, accessing funding, supporting staff until capacity is built, and attending events and Survivor advisory meetings, providing support in funding negotiations and meetings.

During various meetings, this department has taken every opportunity to advocate for long-term funding and encouraged both the provincial and federal governments to prioritize the research and recovery efforts, as well as the Obligations outlined in the Office of Special Interlocutor's Final Report.

The department held its inaugural IRS Research and Recovery Methodologies Gathering, providing guidance and expertise on various aspects of the research and recovery for missing and disappeared children. This event brought together nearly 100 attendees from across the province. During the summer of 2024, the group coordinated a Residential School Survivor Gathering, as well as

educational sessions for AN Caring Community technicians, focused on information sharing, financial reporting and proposal training, and professional development.

**FEDERAL INDIAN DAY SCHOOL AND OTHER CLASS ACTION SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY**

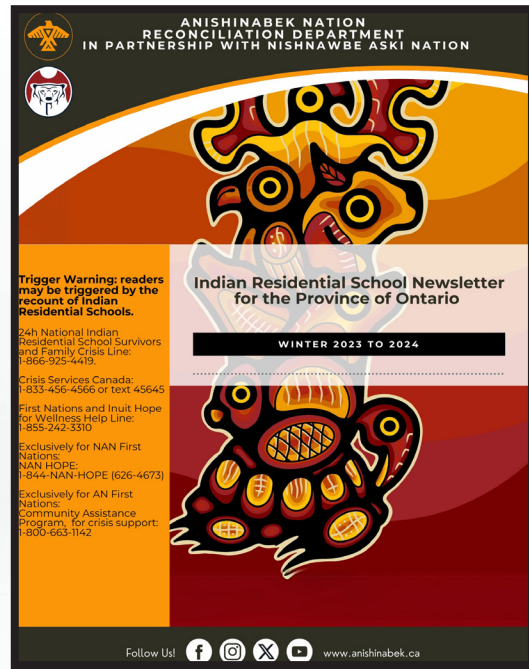
The Reconciliation Navigator, a staff designated to support Anishinabek Nation communities with various class actions and subsequent settlements associated with harms resulting from institutions of assimilation, continues to be very busy with inquiries, requests for assistance, and requests for in-community informational sessions. The Navigator ensures that communities receive reminders of important deadlines, updates, and settlements reached in ongoing class actions. The Navigator provided information, direction, support, and assistance to around 100 community members this year, in relation to Day School and many other past, present, and potential future class action settlements. In-person education and informational sessions also took place in Beausoleil First Nation, Chippewas of Georgina First Nation, North Bay, Sault St. Marie, Nipissing First Nation, Chippewas of Rama, Garden River First Nation, and Thunder Bay.

**ONGOING ACTIVITIES/IMPORTANT EVENTS**

Participation in the Chiefs of Ontario IRS Working Group, providing direction and guidance on NAAKINIGAN – #2023-02 and NAAKINIGAN – #2023-03; Ongoing support for Red Rock Indian Band in relation to the uncovering of Ancestors at the Parks Canada site, this includes ongoing meetings with Parks Canada, advocacy, burial site investigations, discussions with OPP regarding amendments to better protect cultural items; Ongoing introductions and meeting facilitation to introduce communities to the Jesuit Archival material, which may contain valuable information about Indian Residential Schools, but also the Jesuit Missions in the Lake Huron and Lake Superior Regions in the 19th and 20th century; Continuation of the efforts to repatriate a young man from Long Lake #58 who was sent to Indian Residential School and subsequently sent to various institutions in southern Ontario, where he eventually passed away. Successfully acquired funding from the province, which has been provided to the community to begin this sacred work; Development and liaising between other lead communities to support and foster outreach to impacted communities within Anishinabek Nation territory; and Attendance at National Gatherings regarding unmarked burials, federal legislation, and provincial lead community meetings, as well as ceremonies and gatherings hosted by lead community project teams.



Anishinabek Nation Reconciliation Department Every Child Matters Walk at the North Bay Waterfront Bandshell.



# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND KOGANAASAWIN - WAAWAASHKESH DOODEM (DEER CLAN)

## LEADERSHIP COUNCIL DOODEM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:

- Chief Kimberly Bressette (Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation)
- Southeast Regional Chief Marsha Smoke (Alderville First Nation)
- Southwest Regional Chief Joe Miskokomon (Chippewas of the Thames First Nation)
- Ogimaa Tim Ominika (Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory)

## STAFF

- Stan Cloud, Director
- Sally Dokis, Youth Program Manager
- Victoria Racette, Manager of Communications and Circle Process
- Brandie Fong, Manager of Social Services
- Katrina Langevin, Assistant Negotiator and Implementation Manager
- Brady Gunn, Software Developer
- Christine Babinski, Office Administrator
- Grant Peltier, Repatriation Coordinator
- Greg Miller, Child and Family Services Coordinator (LH)
- Kailee Dupuis, Children’s Commissioner Liaison
- Lori Griffith, Finance Analyst
- Noreen Conway, Band Representative Liaison
- Renee Pervais, Regional Facilitator (NS)
- Ronnie Teresinski, Prevention Services Coordinator
- Sara Milian, Regional Facilitator (LH)
- Tracy Robinson, Family Well-Being Development Worker
- Vicki Niles, Family Well-Being Coordinator
- Wendy French, Child and Family Services Coordinator (SE/SW)

## OVERVIEW

The Social Development Department supports the political goals and aspirations of Anishinabek First Nations through the coordination and development of strategies that address social policy and legislative issues from the Anishinabek Nation position to the federal and provincial governments and non-government organizations, working towards achieving the departmental vision of a sovereign Anishinabek Nation with healthy children, youth, and families.

Support and representation to member First Nations are provided in the areas of:

- Child, Youth, and Family Well-Being;
- First Nation Representative Support;
- Prevention;
- Repatriation;
- Children’s Commissioner;
- Circle Process;
- Family Violence Prevention;
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG2S);
- Human Trafficking;
- Youth Programming, including Youth Culture Camps;
- Youth Life Promotion; and
- Income Assistance.

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG2S+) In April 2024, the Social Development Department hosted its first Family Violence Prevention Conference.

Participants identified priorities for family violence prevention, were introduced to star teachings – constellations and clans-bagone-giizhig (the hole in the sky), and held in-depth discussions during a comprehensive exercise to answer key questions.



Participants of the Family Violence Prevention Conference.

Over the past year, work also continued on:

- Development of a strategic action plan, supporting full implementation of *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry Into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*, including the 231 Calls to Justice; and
- The Anishinabek Nation’s Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, Girls, Trans, and Two-Spirited Five-Year Action Plan.

During Fall Assembly, the Chiefs-in-Assembly also passed a resolution to advocate for the establishment of a national and/or provincial data bank for Missing and Murdered First Nations Women, Girls, Men, and Boys, and full funding for this initiative.



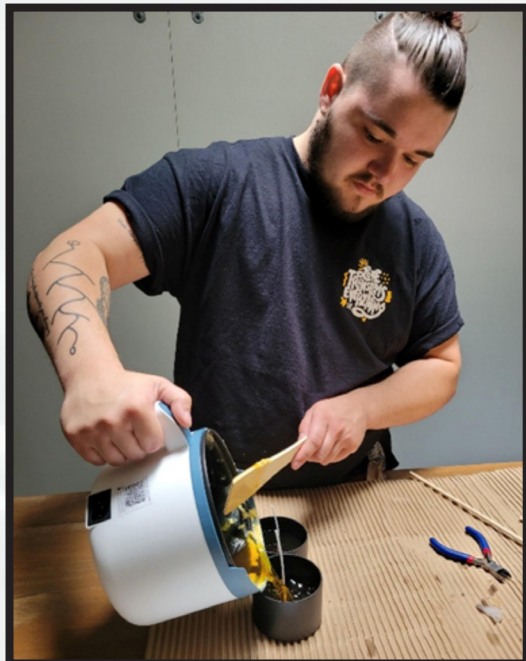
Artist Katie Laronde graphically recorded the Family Violence Prevention Conference.

### WESHKINIJJIG (YOUTH PROGRAM)

Over the past year, Weshkinijjig delivered virtual events to support and engage Anishinabek youth, including:

- Healing through Painting Workshop; and
- Bracelet-Making Workshop to unlock emotional well-being for Anishinabek youth.

In July 2024, Weshkinijjig also hosted a Youth Culture Camp at the Ecology Retreat Centre in Mono, Ontario. Indigenous youth aged 15-29 left the Camp carrying with them new knowledge, skills, and connections – an empowering, enriching, and exciting camp experience that will continue to resonate with participants who came together at the retreat, sharing their common desire to connect with other Indigenous youth and the Anishinaabe culture.



*A participant of the Weshkinijjig Youth Culture Camp makes salves and candles - an indoor Camp activity.*

### KOGANAAWSAWIN HIGHLIGHTS

Over the past year, Koganaawsawin has continued to support all 39 member Anishinabek First Nations in the area of child, youth, and family well-being.

Koganaawsawin continues to support the Anishinabek First Nations that have chosen to enact the *Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law* within their community. To date, 22 Anishinabek First Nations have chosen to enact the Law.

### NEGOTIATIONS

The Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Team continues negotiating a main table tripartite self-government agreement and supporting bilateral fiscal agreements with the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada in the area of child, youth, and family well-being.

The main table continued to meet monthly, discussing pre-scheduled negotiation topics. Negotiators have also identified the need to hold topic-specific meetings for topics requiring in-depth discussion and/or legal analysis.

The supporting bilateral fiscal tables continue to meet monthly,

discussing funding needs in child, youth, and family well-being, and hold tripartite fiscal meetings as needed.

### NATIONAL INDIGENOUS STRATEGY

First Nations across Canada joined Koganaawsawin for a National Indigenous Strategy: Bringing Our Children Home. The two-day in-person event took place in July 2024.

The Strategy was attended by lawyers, negotiators, leadership, and child well-being technicians from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.

Attendees discussed their child well-being work, various paths to jurisdiction, child well-being law development, approaches to fiscal negotiations, strategy for programs and services, and an overall approach to child well-being development.

### THE ANISHINABEK CHILD, YOUTH, AND FAMILY WELL-BEING SYSTEM

Consisting of Anishinabek First Nations that enact the Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law, child well-being agencies, Koganaawsawin, and the Anishinabek Nation Children's Commissioner, Anishinabek First Nations can choose to enact the Law at any time.

Koganaawsawin continues to meet with, and support, all 39 Nations in the area of child, youth, and family well-being.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

In August 2024, Koganaawsawin hosted its second Annual General Meeting. During the hybrid meeting, Koganaawsawin's Board of Directors, leadership of the Anishinabek First Nations implementing the *Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law*, and Koganaawsawin staff discussed Koganaawsawin's annual report, negotiations updates, the National Indigenous Strategy: Bringing Our Children Home, and collaboration with the Kinooomaadziwin Education Body.

### OFFICE OF THE CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER

Duke Peltier continues in his role as the Abinoojiinyan Onjii E-bimiikang (Children's Commissioner), providing high-level oversight over the implementation, compliance, and enforcement of the *Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law* and the Anishinabek Nation Children and Youth Bill of Rights.

Over the past year, the Children's Commissioner has continued to protect the rights of all Anishinaabe children and youth with a focus on those facing difficulties and/or challenges.

### CHILD WELL-BEING WORKING GROUP

Comprised of representatives from the 39 Anishinabek Nation member First Nations and six affiliated Indigenous child well-being agencies, the Working Group continued to hold meetings to discuss child well-being initiatives this past year.

Topics discussed over the 2024-25 year included:

- the Final Agreement on the Long-Term Reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program;
- the Anishinabek Nation's Family Well-Being Program;
- Jordan's Principle;
- the Anishinabek Child, Youth, and Family Well-Being Action Plan;
- negotiations in the area of child, youth, and family well-being;
- repatriation;
- the Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Working Group's terms of reference;
- the *Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law*;
- the Anishinabek Nation Circle Process; and
- case management.

# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND KOGANAASAWIN - WAWAASHKESH DOODEM (DEER CLAN) CONTIN'D



Participants of the Child Well-Being Working Group meet at the Gathering Place in Wasauksing First Nation.

## KOGANAAWSAWIN AND KINOOMAADZIWIN EDUCATION BODY COLLABORATION

Over the past year, Koganaawsawin and the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body (KEB) continued to honour their commitment to work together.

In addition to meeting quarterly to discuss collaboration opportunities, share information, and support each other's work and initiatives, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was drafted for approval by participating Anishinabek First Nations.

## FRIENDSHIP CEREMONY WITH TREATY 8

In June 2024, Koganaawsawin participated in a Friendship Ceremony with Treaty 8 – celebrating a shared commitment to child well-being and dedication to maintaining traditional practices. The Ceremony also symbolized their strong relationship, reinforcing mutual respect and cooperation.

Koganaawsawin's work with Treaty 8 paves the way for other First Nations to reclaim their traditions and sovereignty in child welfare matters. Through sharing experiences and successes, Koganaawsawin aims to inspire and support communities in developing their culturally appropriate child well-being frameworks.

## FIRST NATION REPRESENTATIVE SUPPORT

In October 2024, Koganaawsawin hosted an in-person Provincial First Nation Representative (FNR) Conference. This annual Conference continued to be technician-led, with the overall goal to hear First

Nations share their successes and challenges in enhancing their community's First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program.

Attendees included First Nation Representatives, frontline child welfare advocates, social directors, health directors, and First Nation leadership holding social and/or health portfolios.

Over the three-days, topics consisted of:

- suicide prevention and life promotion;
- litigation strategies: duty to consult;
- self-care for frontline workers using the Medicine Wheel;
- Kids Help Phone;
- the Moushroom and Trout Case Class Action Settlement;
- FNCFS Program funding;
- the Final Agreement on the Long-Term Reform of the FNCFS Program;
- Jordan's Principle; and
- repatriation.

The invaluable best practices shared throughout the Conference will support communities in overcoming barriers, further enabling them to access and deliver the programs and services needed for First Nation children and families to thrive.

Over the past year, the Band Representative Liaison continued working with the Anishinabek Educational Institute (AEI) Child Welfare Advocate Program and Program Advisory Committee, in addition to participating in engagement sessions for:

- the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services (MCCSS) First Nations Technical Table;
- First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program funding;
- Anishinabek Nation's First Nation (Band) Representative Focus Group; and
- the transformation of death review processes for Indigenous children and youth with the Officer of the Chief Coroner.

## ANISHINABEK NATION CIRCLE PROCESS

As a culturally-based, voluntary, confidential, child-centered circle, the Circle Process provides Anishinabek First Nation families with the support needed to create a plan that addresses child and youth well-being issues. It can be accessed at any step of the care process, utilizes the *Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law*, and supports Anishinabek families that are involved or at-risk of becoming involved in child protection matters. In 2024-25, the Program began accepting requests for circles in the Lake Huron and Northern Superior Regions.

Our Regional Facilitators also participated in training and mentorship with the Family Group Conferencing (FGC) and Indigenous Alternative Dispute (IADR) through the Family Group Conferencing Ontario Provincial Resource Program. As approved members of the Family Group Conferencing Provincial Roster, they are trained to conduct circles virtually and in-person.

## FAMILY WELL-BEING PROGRAM

In June 2024, the Family Well-Being Program hosted a two-day Family Well-Being Conference in Chippewas of Rama First Nation – Cultivating Resilience in Families and Strengthening Community Safety. Participants were introduced to strawberry teachings, WrapAround Training, strengths and safety needs for neurodivergence, self-care activities, community safety and policing, including a newly launched drug initiative, and human trafficking.



Participants gathering for the Family Well-Being Conference at Casino Rama First Nation.

Over the 2024-25 year, the Family Well-Being Program Team also:

- supported the Anishinabek Nation’s Family Violence Prevention Conference;
- participated in the Health Department’s Mahiingan Family Road Race in Nipissing for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness and the FASD Walk in Curve Lake;
- attended community engagements in Alderville, Scugog, Wahnapiatae, Wiikwemkoong, Aundeck Omni Kaning, Moose Deer Point, and Beausoleil;
- established a Family Well-Being Advisory Group with representation from the Anishinabek Nation’s four regions;
- presented a program overview at the fall Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Working Group meeting;
- held a Christmas door decorating contest for frontline worker self-care;
- collaborated with the Language Department to send Chameleon Readers to each community; and
- provided two separate distributions of additional funds to communities targeting food security.

The Family Well-Being Program also hosted a three-day in-person Trauma-Informed Care Training Session - approaches from an Anishinaabe Worldview. Each day was filled with understanding the trauma of our people, connecting, learning, personal growth, gizhewaatsiwin (kindness), reawakening connections, and affirmations to fill heart and spirit.



Family Well-Being Workers on the final day of their Trauma-Informed Care Training Session in North Bay, Ontario.

### CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

Over the past year, the Child and Family Services Team has participated in:

- Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Working Group meetings;
- various community engagements and presentations;
- Koganaawsawin’s Annual General Meeting;

- the Provincial First Nation Representative Conference hosted by Koganaawsawin;
- First Nations Technical Table meetings with the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS);
- Post-Majority Care Services meetings;
- planning for a Prevention Conference hosted by Koganaawsawin;
- the Anishinabek Nation’s Draft Community Standards Committee; and
- supporting communities in drafting their community standards.

Through the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) Order 41, First Nations can access funding for the purchase, construction, or renovation of capital assets that are needed to:

- support the delivery of Child and Family Services to First Nations children;
- provide safe, accessible, confidential, cultural, and age-appropriate spaces that are needed to support the delivery of Jordan’s Principle services; and/or
- provide Band/First Nations Representative Services.

Funding applications to buy, build, or renovate capital assets or carry out a needs assessment for a feasibility study can be made by:

- Band/First Nation Representative Services;
- Prevention Programs;
- Indigenous Child Welfare Agencies; and/or
- Jordan’s Principle Service Providers.

Child, youth, and family services have the ability to combine resources to purchase, construct, or renovate multi-service capital assets.

The “Capital Funding Request – First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan’s Principle” can be found online at [www.sac-isc.gc.ca](http://www.sac-isc.gc.ca).

The Child and Family Services Coordinators continue to provide ongoing support and services to Anishinabek First Nations to amend and enhance current standards as needed by each Anishinabek First Nation. In addition to liaising with Anishinabek First Nations and federal and provincial governments responsible for the delivery and/or funding of First Nations child and family services.

### PREVENTION SERVICES

2024 marked another year of progress and perseverance. The Prevention-Focused Customary 2024 marked another year of progress and perseverance. The Prevention-Focused Customary Care (PFCC) Program continues to demonstrate its importance in supporting Anishinabek families. Despite financial constraints, the demand for the Program remained strong over the past year – highlighting the Program’s value and effectiveness in keeping children connected to their families and communities while empowering caregivers through a culturally-grounded and community-based approach.

This past year, the Anishinabek Nation remained committed to seeking alternative funding opportunities while maximizing existing resources to maintain and grow the PFCC Program.

As communities advance their efforts to create locally-driven, culturally relevant supports that align with the *Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law*, significant work has also continued to support member Anishinabek First Nations with the development of their prevention programs.

### REPATRIATION

During the 2024 year, the Repatriation Coordinator participated in:

- the Association of Native Child and Family Services Agencies of Ontario (ANCFSAO) Indigenous Child Well-Being Conference;

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND KOGANAASAWIN - WAAWAASHKESH DOODEM (DEER CLAN) CONTIN'D

- Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Working Group meetings;
- Koganaawsawin's Provincial First Nation Representative Conference;
- community engagements and presentations;
- engagement with Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services; and
- Indigenous Services Canada's Ontario Joint Gathering.

Beginning with community engagement, work continued throughout 2024-25 to support and establish a Repatriation Program. Through the Repatriation Program, the Anishinabek Nation supports and promotes the development of connection(s) for Anishinabek children and youth who have been separated from their family and community as a result of child welfare involvement or adoption.

The Program includes:

- advocacy and support;
- referral services;
- program development and support;
- assistance with planning and reunification; and
- connection to culture.

The Repatriation Coordinator continues to develop the Repatriation Working Group with representation from all four regions of the Anishinabek Nation and build relationships with various service providers that are essential to the successful operation of the Program.



# ANISHINABEK NATION 7<sup>TH</sup> GENERATION CHARITY (AN7GC)

The Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity is a self-sufficient charity relying fully on the success of its annual fundraising initiatives in order to support its goals and objectives. The AN7GC works to raise funds to help provide support to the 39 Anishinabek First Nations and the citizens of those communities, whether living within the communities or abroad. The AN7GC is committed to improving the quality of life of Anishinabek citizens by providing support, where no other funding exists, in the areas of Health, Education, Culture, Youth, Elders, Social, Emergency Crisis and Disaster Relief.

## VISION STATEMENT

The AN7GC will help create educated, healthy, and culturally enriched citizens that will continue to grow a stable, strong, and prosperous Anishinabek Nation.

## MISSION

As the official charitable fundraising arm of the Anishinabek Nation, the AN7GC is committed to improving the quality of life of Anishinabek Nation citizens by providing support where no other funding exists.

## STAFF

Jason Restoule, Manager

## GOVERNANCE

The AN7GC is governed by the Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity Board of Directors. The AN7GC Board of Directors oversees all planning and fundraising initiatives of the AN7GC. It is responsible for budget approvals, grant application reviews/approvals, and policy development.

**President:** Linda Debassige, Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief

**Vice-President:** Chris Plain, Anishinabek Nation Deputy Grand Council Chief

## Board of Directors

Northern Superior Region: Chief Michelle Solomon, Fort William First Nation

Southeast Region: Chief Ted Williams, Chippewas of Rama First Nation

Southwest Region: Councilor Sherri Crowley, Aamjiwnaang First Nation

Lake Huron Region: Chief Rodney Nahwegahbow, Whitefish River First Nation

The third installment of our popular Anishinabek Catch the Ace progressive online raffle was our most successful to date, with the lucky winner receiving over \$100,000, while raising over \$150,000 for the AN7GC. The fourth installment of this raffle began on April 2, 2025. More information about this initiative can be found at [AnishinabekAce.ca](http://AnishinabekAce.ca).

Both 2024 annual fundraising events were great successes. Our Anishinabek Veterans Memorial Golf Tournament sold-out with guests enjoying a day of fun on the golf course. The Anishinabek Evening of Excellence was an inspiring event where we presented 19 Anishinabek citizens with prestigious Anishinabek Lifetime Achievement Awards.

Our highly praised Niigan Mooswak youth program, which consists of three week-long summer leadership camps for Anishinabe youth,

were also successful. The AN7GC provided 19 Anishinabek students with scholarships to help them with their educational endeavours. We have renewed many of our partnerships in the travel, service, and hospitality industries and have benefitted from increasing revenues in these areas as well.

The AN7GC is proud to have been able to provide over \$20,000 in grants and scholarships in 2024-25. The AN7GC is focused in the areas of health/medical, as well as emergencies for Grant disbursements. In addition to this financial assistance, the AN7GC was also able to provide valuable non-monetary assistance to many who needed guidance and a helping hand.

The AN7GC is grateful to have so many generous partners whose financial contributions are vital in the success of our fundraising initiatives and ultimately allow the AN7GC to continue to work toward making our Vision a reality.

Chi-Miigwech to our generous partners and supporters, which in 2024-25 included:



## Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity

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[www.an7gc.ca](http://www.an7gc.ca)

Registered charitable #895952471RR0001

**The Anishinabek Nation is a political advocate for 39 member communities across Ontario, representing approximately 70,000 people. The Anishinabek Nation is the oldest political organization in Ontario and can trace its roots back to the Confederacy of Three Fires, which existed long before European contact.**

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