



Chop Waindubence, Sheguiandah First Nation provides teachings on Anishinaabe Dodemaag and Chi-Naaknigewin at the second annual Anishinaabe Giizhigad held at Curve Lake First Nation on June 6, 2023. - Photos by Ryan Peplinskie

# Teachings and storytelling at annual Anishinaabe Giizhigad celebrations

**By Rick Garrick and Marci Becking**  
CURVE LAKE FIRST NATION — The Anishinabek Nation celebrated Anishinaabe Giizhigad, the national holiday observed every year on June 6, with a celebration welcoming E'Dbendaagzjig and special guests in Curve Lake First Nation both in-person and virtually.

Host community Ogimaa Keith Knott provided the welcoming address following the opening drum song by Mshkaaziwin Drum Group and recitation of Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe by Getzit Puckwiss Johnson.

“To me, it’s a joy to be amongst you all this morning! Enjoy, talk amongst each other — much is to be learned,” he expresses. “I’d like to acknowledge our Elder with her prayer here this morning, how beautiful our language is.”

Guest speakers include Anishinabek

Nation E'Dbendaagzjig Commissioner Jeannette Corbiere Lavell and Commissioner on Governance Patrick Wedaseh Madahbee who both instilled Anishinaabe pride in all those taking in the day.

“We are Anishinaabe. We are a strong people. It’s not the English or French who are the founding people, it’s us, Anishinaabeg,” Corbiere Lavell says. “Celebrating today as Anishinaabe Day is a day to search out our history, potential, knowledge — all of the information that we have within our people — and start using it. Today is a good day to start.”

“We have a way of life that that has been around for thousands of years — history didn’t begin when those folks came over,” says Madahbee. “Let’s practice Anishinaabe Giizhigad every day!”

Elder Josh Eskawkogan (Ozaawa Nimkii) of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory walked

attendees through the origin story of Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe — the Preamble to the Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin.

“It is really nice to share the history of this and a lot of it has to do with the Elders on Manitoulin and we did it with the guidance of our M’Shiikenh-baa. He was very important to our group. We received direction from Ogimaa Pat (Madahbee) — there were a lot of us in the Lodge and people from Zhiibaahaasing, Wasausking, Aundeck Omni Kaning, Wiikwemkoong, M’Chigeeng, and more.”

Elder Eskawkogan says that many who helped create the Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe have since passed into the Spirit World.

“We all brought our Bundles, the Pipes. That was very important. We smoked the Pipes around the table. We wrote the Preamble four or five times to put everything

into perspective of Anishinaabe people. We needed to understand who we are. What is our identity? Our language was part of who we are. We understood we were part of the land. We identified everything in our own language; lots of meetings at the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation of how to say it in the language. We looked at it as everyone and wanted to include everybody — Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe [One Anishinaabe Family — everyone in the nation on the land]. We need to connect to the Anishinaabe way,” he recounts. “There [were] at least 20 Pipes in that council and there are probably only four or five of us left... One of the first things we said was Debenjiged — everything belongs to the Creator... It took us a long time to understand the four elements. We were given these gifts. The sacred fire — the coals are our ancestors; Aki — how we use

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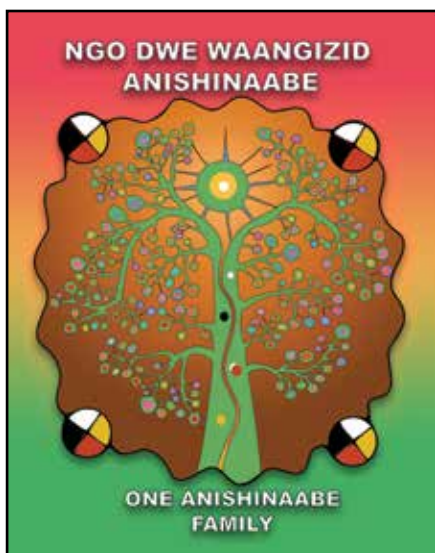
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### Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe One Anishinaabe Family

Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe Colouring Book is available through [www.goodminds.com](http://www.goodminds.com).

Illustrated by Nipissing First Nation artist Don Chretien, the imagery coincides with the concepts in the preamble of the Chi-Naakngewin. For all ages!

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Southeast Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief Jimbob Marsden, MNRF Minister Graydon Smith, Northern Superior Regional Grand Council Chief Mel Hardy, Jason Laronde - Anishinabek Nation Director of Lands & Resources.

## Political Quarterly Report

Springtime is traditionally a very busy season across the Anishinabek Nation territory and that was exactly the case for the Executive Council these last few months. We have had a productive season with a number of exciting meetings, activities, and forums throughout the months of March, April, and May. While a lot of our primary focus has been on engaging with leadership at the regional levels and getting prepared for the Grand Council Assembly, there have also been several opportunities for strengthening our relationships with external bodies and bringing forth common priorities to larger audiences.

Water protection has been a top priority for many of our communities and we have been putting extensive efforts into amplifying messaging and supporting efforts across the board. Taking into consideration that many Anishinabek First Nations reside directly on or near the Great Lakes, it's understandable that water protection is such a high priority — this is why we have increased our efforts and are advocating for personhood rights for Nibi. The Grand Council recently mandated the Great Lakes Bill of Rights to propose legislation to implement these rights for water. This will ensure that we not only strengthen our protection and conservation efforts, but guarantee that clean drinking water remains available to the millions of people who rely on it daily. We encourage you to visit <https://greatlakesbillofrights.org/> to learn more information.

We had the opportunity to bring this message into the regional, national, and international realms and we were met with tremendous support. We also made beneficial connections with leaders as well as water policy and research experts. In April, we participated in the Great Lakes Guardian Council with Minister David Piccini and other leaders with a vested interest in the protection of the Great Lakes. Following that, we are proud to have been invited to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues where we brought forth the same message. We also had the opportunity to engage with leading science experts and researchers at the International Association for Great Lakes Research Conference. We are excited to see

Anishinaabe water experts being involved in these larger efforts such as Carrie-Anne Charles, who provided a riveting keynote address at the International Association for Great Lakes Research's 66th Annual Conference.

It is imperative that we continue to be involved and meaningfully included. Culture, traditions, and ancestral knowledge are critical components that need to be included in policy reform through engagement and consultation efforts. This applies across all sectors including environment, social, lands and resources, education, justice, health, and anything that may impact our rights and territories. We continue to meet with Ontario Ministerial partners to ensure that our mandates, as well as urgent and priority concerns, are brought forward to the appropriate leaders who can help us achieve solutions and outcomes.

Recently, Anishinabek Nation Regional Deputy Grand Council Chiefs James Marsden and Mel Hardy, along with members of the Lands and Resources Department, met with the Ministries of Natural Resources and Forestry and Mines at their offices at Queen's Park. Ministers Graydon Smith and George Pirie heard from us about some of the main concerns pertaining to outstanding and emerging issues relating to their ministerial mandates. We were able to highlight how relationship-building efforts can be strengthened but also where we have successful partnerships such as the Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre. Continual issues such as increasing capacity, improving consultation, and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples remain at the forefront of our message.

We returned to Queen's Park the following day when Lake Huron Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief Travis Boissoneau supported Garden River First Nation in its litigation efforts regarding land issues that arose from the Pennefather Treaty. It is incredibly meaningful for the community to rectify the wrongful loss of land and extend an invitation to the government to take this opportunity as a true act of reconciliation on behalf of the Crown. It was a beautiful moment for the

community that honourably carried its Eagle Staff into the halls of the legislature and later fulfilled its intent with ceremony and protocol.

Our advocacy efforts at the ministerial level take us beyond Queen's Park; we have been advancing relationship-building efforts with Ontario Health. We want to build a relationship where we can collaborate and engage with each other where we can achieve our common vision of improving healthcare and health outcomes for the citizens of our Nation. Transformative health can only be achieved when we collectively strive toward the common vision of accessible healthcare for everyone. We face many risk factors with impending federal legislation and the provincial move towards healthcare privatization that these relationship-building efforts have become more integral.

We look forward to the incoming summer season and the warmer weather. Anishinaabe Giizhigad took place on June 6, which continues to grow each year and this year, we had it leading into our Grand Council Assembly held in Curve Lake First Nation. We will also be participating in the upcoming Chiefs of Ontario Annual Assembly in June and the Assembly of First Nations Annual General Assembly in July.

If we don't see you at the assemblies, we look forward to running into many of you on the pow wow trail — we hope you all have a great summer!

#### Notable Meetings and Events:

- Chiefs of Ontario Health Forum
- Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada Convention
- LNHL Opening Ceremonies
- Anishinaabe Dodemaag Teachings
- Regional meetings
- Assembly First Nation Special Chiefs Assembly
- Meet and Greet with Special Investigations Unit
- Anishinabek Nation Mental Health Summit
- B'Maakonigan and Minister Miller
- Ontario Health Board Education Session
- AFN Health Legislation
- AFN Housing Forum



Carrie-Anne Charles from Georgina Island First Nation and Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe at the International Association of Great Lakes Research Conference May 11, 2023.



Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe and Minister of Environment David Piccini at Ontario's Great Lakes Guardian Council.



Garden River First Nation Elder Darrel Boissoneau, Lake Huron Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief Travis Boissoneau and Chief Andy Rickard at Queen's Park.



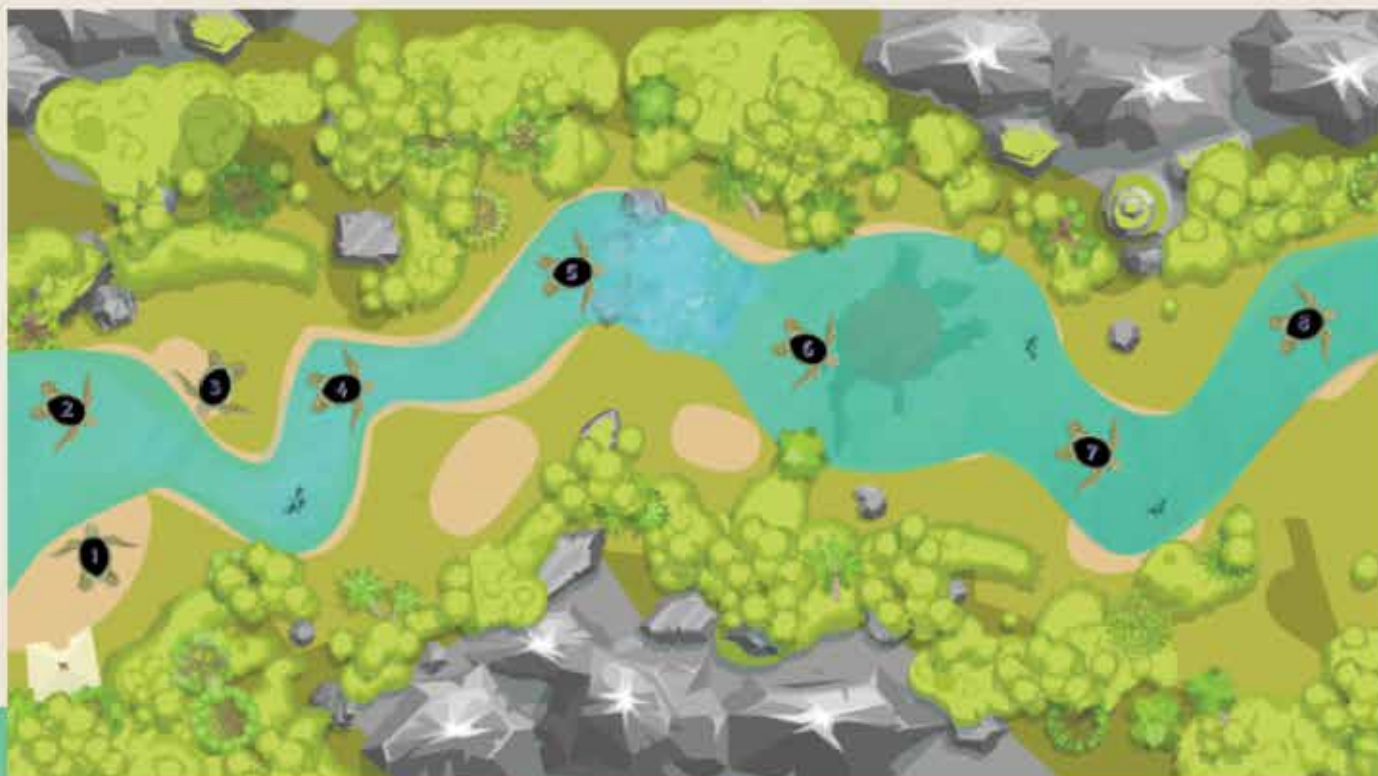
On Day 3 of the 22nd Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York, President Whitney Gravelle of the Bay Mills Indian Community, Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe, and Michelle Woodhouse, Métis Water Protector and Water Program Manager for Environmental Defence Canada come together for a plenary session. - Photo by Laura Mayer



Anishinabek Nation Mining Policy Analyst Jenny-Lou Campbell, Southeast Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief James R. Marsden, Ontario Minister of Mines George Pirie, Northern Superior Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief Melvin Hardy.



# EZHI-NAWENDING



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The Curve Lake Girls Drum Group ages 8 - 10, sang at the annual general meeting for the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body on the evening of June 7. The girls made their own drums, drumsticks and, with the help of community member Marcie Williams, their ribbon skirts.

# Grand Council Assembly June 7-8, 2023

## Curve Lake First Nation



Grand Entry at the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Assembly hosted by Curve Lake First Nation on June 7-8. Drum Group Mshkaaziwin guided the assembly for both days.



Grand Council Chief gave opening remarks on Day 1 of Grand Council Assembly: 'Our second year in office has been marked by many events and milestones. Myself and the Regional Chiefs have dedicated themselves to strengthening our communities and maintaining momentum on our collective priorities.'



Southeast Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief James R. Marsden brought greetings from the region and welcomed everyone to assembly.



'Continuing our efforts in Health Transformation, we aim to revolutionize our health system by increasing our resources within our communities. We have learned growing up within the healthcare system that this government is marginalizing us. We see it, we feel it, and we are tired of it. We do have the resources and capacity within our communities to gain sovereignty within our own communities,' states Northern Superior Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief Mel Hardy on Day 1 of the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Assembly.



'Getzit Assinewai spoke to false time, referring to the clock and how we are running the things we do... We move so fast and deal with so much, we want to get so much done... The history and the gathering that happened many years ago were done slowly, with patience and purpose. It is an honour and I hope that we serve you well in the next couple of days,' says Lake Huron Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief Travis Boissoneau on Day 1 of the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Assembly.



Leadership and participants of Day 1 of the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Assembly welcome Ontario Regional Chief Glen Hare.

**JULY**  
**14,15,16**

**31<sup>ST</sup>**

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**GRAND ENTRY SATURDAY JULY 15TH 1PM & 7PM (FEAST 5PM)**

**GRAND ENTRY SUNDAY JULY 16TH 12PM (FEAST 5PM)**

**HOST DRUM: ROLLING THUNDER**

**CO HOST DRUM: HBO**

**MC: TODD GENNO**

**ARENA DIRECTORS: NATHAN MOSES/JOHN LINDSTROM**

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# WESHKINIJIIG

"THOSE WHO ARE YOUTHFUL"

Weshkiniijig, Anishinabek Nation's Youth Program, supports all 39 Anishinabek First Nations with implementation and development of annual work plans and activities for the:

- Youth Life Promotion (YLP) Program**  
 Funded by the Ministry of Health; YLP is based on the belief that all young people are capable of finding their own path to a meaningful life. Programs and services are holistic, strengths-based, and empowerment focused, while aiming to honour youth individuality.
- Youth Culture Camp (YCC) Program**  
 Funded by the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries; YCC creates culturally relevant experiences that revitalize cultural knowledge in Indigenous youth aged 8-29 years old.

WWW.ANISHINABEK.CA/YOUTHPROGRAM

## Gaawiin Geyaabi Da-gmoodziim Shiimenhiig (No More Stolen Sisters)

*In the past, as colonization and assimilation took root, women experienced the dominant force of sexual violence, oppression, and genocide.<sup>1</sup>*

*To this day, Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples are subject to violence and abuse, resulting in a crisis of missing and murdered peoples.<sup>2</sup>*

*In addition to a Red Dress Alert system, the Anishinabek Nation is committed to advocating for the development of an Auntie Network Helpline to connect Indigenous women with the crisis support and services they need.*

1. [www.anishinabek.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/UOLAN-MMIWG2SLGBTQQIA-Men-Boys-STRAT-ACTION-PLAN-FINAL.pdf](http://www.anishinabek.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/UOLAN-MMIWG2SLGBTQQIA-Men-Boys-STRAT-ACTION-PLAN-FINAL.pdf)  
2. [www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report](http://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report)

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Four members of the Eshekenijig Advisory Council presented at Grand Council Assembly. From left: Pierre Debassige, Britnee Waindubence, Katelyn Peters and Lance Copecog gave a presentation on Day 1. One request was to travel more within their regions to connect with other youth and youth councils.



'I want to explain the importance of accreditation of AEI and the difference between that and incorporation. We are focussed on the accreditation aspect that will allow us to have the authority to develop and deliver post-secondary programming that meets the needs of our communities,' says Anishinabek Nation Director of Education and Anishinabek Educational Institute Mindy Taylor during her Education update on Day 1 of the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Assembly.



'I am standing up here very full of joy. The inspiration that you are showing at your young age, the leadership that you are providing is very inspiring... and seeing the footprints there that you are starting to follow. We are in the process of developing a Youth Council and it would be an honour and a pleasure for you to come address our Youth Council. You are such an inspiration, I believe you would show the young people how and where to do things. It is very inspiring to all of us here to see you come up to the microphone – that gives us a lift to keep involved,' says Curve Lake First Nation Chief Knott to the Anishinabek Nation Eshekenijig Advisory Council on Day 1 of the Grand Council Assembly.



The Anishinabek Nation Health Department Director Jamie Restoule, Health Department staff, and Portfolio Holders delivered a Health update during Day 1 of the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Assembly, which included: the Mental Health and Opioids Summit and Health Transformation



From left: Legal counsel Leanna Farr, Director of the Social Development Department Stan Cloud, Main Table Negotiator Tracey O'Donnell and Fiscal Negotiator (via Zoom) Jidé Afolabi, presented on Tripartite Child, Youth and Family Well-Being Negotiations, Tripartite Bilateral Fiscal Negotiations and the Canadian Human Rights Final Agreement.

# Declaration of State of Emergency: Inequitable policing resources in Anishinabek Nation Territory

CURVE LAKE FIRST NATION (June 8, 2023) — Anishinabek Nation Chiefs-in-Assembly have unanimously declared a State of Emergency due to the continual inequitable funding for policing in Anishinabek First Nations. The lack of adequate and efficient resourcing for policing in member First Nations has created a dire situation for this essential service. The decision was made during Day 1 of the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Assembly on June 7, with Chief Patsy Corbiere of Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation moving the resolution and seconded by Chief Lloyd Myke of Magnetawan First Nation.

“The declaration of a State of Emergency highlights the urgency and seriousness of the policing crisis in our communities,” states Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe. “It is essential for Canada to acknowledge and address the systemic barriers and discriminatory practices that hinder the safety and well-being of our citizens. We demand equitable resources and support for our policing services to ensure the security and justice our communities need and deserve.”

The funding agreement for Anishinabek Police Service (APS) and United Chiefs and Councils of Manitoulin (UCCM) Anishnaabe Police expired on March 31, 2023, due to the federal government refusing to renegotiate more equitable agreements. To date, it has refused meaningful negotiations with the APS, which serves the Robinson

Superior Treaty, Robinson Huron Treaty, Williams Treaty, and Upper Canada Treaty Communities within the Anishinabek Nation territory. This inveterate underfunding not only poses financial challenges but also threatens fundamental rights, justice, and the overall well-being of Anishinabek communities.

Substantial issues have arisen from the federally-administered First Nations and Inuit Policing Program (FNIPP). Deliberate underfunding and inadequate resourcing of Indigenous community safety initiatives is discriminatory at its core. This has been reinforced by recent legal cases, such as the *Dominique v. Public Safety Canada* (2022 CHRT 4) ruling by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) and the subsequent affirmation by the Federal Court in Canada (*Procureur general v. Premiere Nation des Pekuakamiunuatsh* (2023, CF 267)). The Quebec Court of Appeal has further stated that Canada’s systemic underfunding of Indigenous policing through the FNIPP constitutes a violation of the Honour of the Crown and Canada’s fiduciary duty towards Indigenous peoples.

“The chronic underfunding of Indigenous policing is not only a financial issue, but a matter of fundamental rights and justice,” states Lake Huron Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief Travis Boissoneau. “Canada has a duty to uphold the Honour of the Crown and fulfill its fiduciary responsibilities towards Indigenous peoples.

We urge immediate action to rectify this situation and ensure the safety and security of our communities.”

The imminent consequences of these circumstances are dire. APS and other Indigenous policing services are nearing the end of available funding. This impedes their ability to not only provide essential services, but impacts the administration function of operations. Inadequate resources hinder the capacity of FNIPP-funded police services to effectively respond to and address the needs of victims of crime and the safety needs of their communities. This is particularly important in the context of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit individuals — this has a dire impact on Anishinabek people.

In light of these critical challenges, the Anishinabek Nation Chiefs-in-Assembly have taken decisive action issuing the following directives:

- **Support for Policing Resources:** The Anishinabek Nation is mandated to support efforts aimed at restoring resources for safe and equitable policing across Anishinabek territory. Adequate and safe policing services are essential to maintaining community well-being and fostering a sense of security within Anishinabek Nation communities.
- **Advocacy for Essential Police Service Designation:** The Anishinabek Nation is directed to advocate for the Essential Police Service Designation through legislation. This designation will guarantee dedicated funding and resources to enable First Nation Police Services to develop and implement a model equitable to that of non-Indigenous police services.
- **Preparation of Litigation Action Plan:** If significant progress is not made by August 1, 2023, the Anishinabek Nation will prepare a litigation action plan to ensure the protection of rights and justice for Indigenous communities.
- **Status Update at 2023 Fall Grand Council Assembly:** The Anishinabek Nation requests a status update on the progress made in addressing the policing crisis to be provided at the Fall Grand Council Assembly.
- **Immediate State of Emergency Declaration:** The Anishinabek Nation declares a State of Emergency to compel Canada to recognize and rectify the systemic barriers and discriminatory practices within the funding models of FNIPP. Addressing the chronic underfunding of First Nation policing is vital to mitigate systemic inequalities, reduce crime rates, and ensure the safety and security of Anishinabek Nation communities.



‘This year, Great Lakes strategy and action plans will come out. Water is Life – water provides life, water has a spirit, and is a living being on its own. We want to recognize the Great Lakes as a living entity,’ states Anishinabek Nation Lands and Resources Manager Rhonda Gagnon on Day 2 of the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Assembly.



‘We need to look at creating solutions that are sustainable and progressive - each community wants its own programs specific to their community needs. We will continue to...provide technical support to leadership,’ says Jamie Koistinen, Anishinabek Nation Infrastructure Manager, during her update on housing on Day 2 of the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Assembly.



‘If we are serious about wanting to recognize our rights as an Anishinabek Nation, we must recognize the key areas: land, citizens - who they are. We know who our people are, it is up to us to act. We have the resources, we can ensure that we recognize our own people,’ says Anishinabek Nation E’Dbendaagzijing Commissioner Jeannette Corbiere Lavell on Day 2 of the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Assembly.



Kwe-wuk Advisory council members Evelyn Stone (Northern Superior), Nora Sawyer, (Southeast) and Betsy Kecheho, Southwest).



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the land; we use the air that we breathe in for balance; Nibi – how do we look after the water and support women to look after the water? Shkagmigaang is Mother Earth. We won't be here anymore if we lose any of the four elements."

"The Creator gave us the Seven Grandfather Teachings and we talked about how we look after them. Ogimaa said this morning that we are born with these teachings and it's up to us to use them in a good way — there was a lot of discussion in regards to that. We were to provide this Preamble to our Leadership — this is how we look after ourselves as a Nation. We were really proud — we knew it was a legacy that they had created and it was for the future. They were really firm on what they believed; we have to get our kids to understand how they look after these elements. We will lose the teaching if we don't pass it on. We have to make sure that we respect the past, respect the now, and respect the future. We are doing this for our children and our youth. This is how our beautiful Preamble came about for you to use."

Maya Chacaby, Anishinaabemowin Scholar, citizen of Red Rock Indian Band, showcased a snippet of an online : post-apocalyptic role-playing adventure game for players to learn Anishinaabemowin called Biskaabiyaang.

"We shouldn't be in these classrooms just learning nouns to memorize, we need to be experiencing it. We need to learn about the relationships with the language. All of the four-legged cousins speak Anishinaabemowin. We need to have relationships with them. The idea of ceremony and dreams is so important. We need to make the language a story. In order to do that we had to tell a new story about a new itself," says Chacaby.

At first, she created Biskaabiyaang: where players can take on Linguicidals, and the warriors are obsessed with pronunciation, the Mage want to learn vocabulary, and there is a big boss battle, who is the teacher, at the end. As a result of this game, the level of proficiency skyrocketed following play. Now she is working on an online version with support from the Nokiiwin Tribal Council.

"That's how powerful Anishinaabemowin is. This is a space that colonization can't touch. When you start to learn the language, it can't be touched by outsiders."

Attendees received Anishinaabe Dodemaag and Chi-Naaknigewin Teachings led by Chop Waindubence during the in-person and virtual Anishinaabe Giizhigad celebrations where he emphasized the importance of the Grandfather Teachings.

"An absence of one of these teachings

is an absence of all," says Waindubence, a Sheguiandah citizen whose father was the late Anishinabek Nation Head Getzit Mishomis Gordon Waindubence M'Shiikenh-baa. "A part of this Residential School System was to kill the Indian in the child — what is the best way to do that? The very first Grandfather teaching that we have [Love]: that absence of love — [it] wasn't there."

Waindubence says the absence of love in the Indian Residential Schools was like the reverse side of the Eagle Feather he was holding.

"Everybody wants to know this feather right here, this side because it's nice, it's smooth, but we tend to forget the other teachings of that feather, where it's rough, where it's coarse," Waindubence says. "What is the opposite of love? If this word is ever shared amongst the young [people] — a young individual like my son here — if they have ever felt like that, it'll destroy them. And that is exactly what that government did to us, this word is so powerful it can destroy anybody no matter what age you really are. To feel love, that's the difference... Zaagidwin (love), you can't speak it, you have to feel it."

Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe stressed that there are many Anishinabek nations within Turtle Island, including Grand Council Treaty #3 in northwestern Ontario and Treaty 8 in Alberta, and welcomes them.

"Grand Council Treaty #3 is going to come and visit, Treaty 8 will be here with us for a little bit, I know we have some folks watching online from the States," notes Grand Council Chief Niganobe.

He highlights that the Bay Mills Indian Community gifted him the medallion he is wearing during the celebrations during a trip to the United Nations to help them with issues related to water in their lands.

"We got to share stories with them and teachings with them that we both understood and we both knew and we both had in common," Niganobe says. "Their Tribal President Whitney Gravelle gifted me this [medallion with] the woman carrying the water — our water protectors. In turn, I gifted her my medallion, which is the birch bark one, which are very beautiful [and] were done on this side."

Treaty 8 Deputy Grand Chief Ramona Horseman, who is also Chief of Horse Lake, attended the celebration with other guests from Treaty 8 and shared a Creation Story that featured the four elements of earth, water, air, and fire, as well as a fifth element of love.

"This fifth one, I heard the word spoken quite a bit by [Chop Waindubence] who was telling us the stories," Horseman says. "The Creator would wrap his arms around you with love and that was how [they] created you."

The Anishinabek Nation celebrates Anishinaabe Giizhigad on June 6 to honour Anishinaabe identity, history, traditions, pride, and most importantly, people, and also commemorate the proclamation of the Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin and the adoption of the Preamble, Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe, on June 6, 2012.

On November 17, 2021, the Anishinabek Nation Leadership Council proclaimed

June 6 as Anishinaabe Giizhigad, a national holiday.

The Anishinabek Nation concluded the Anishinaabe Giizhigad celebrations with a community feast.

A recording of the livestream of the 2023 Anishinaabe Giizhigad celebration is available on the Anishinabek Nation YouTube channel.



### Celebrating Anishinaabe Giizhigad with 'good medicine'

By Mary Zoccole

FORT WILLIAM FIRST NATION — On June 6, the Anishinabek Nation celebrates Anishinaabe Giizhigad (Anishinaabe Day), the national holiday. The Anishinabek Nation staff at the Fort William satellite office spent the day beautifying the entryway of its office.

Over time, the garden beds became overgrown with weeds and were in serious need of some care — it took the whole morning to remove all of the weeds (while also feeding the mosquitos)!

The design of the flowerbeds was carefully thoughtout. The first garden bed was designed as a Medicine Wheel — rocks were gathered and placed in a circle with four quadrants. Perennial flowers were carefully selected in the four colours; white, yellow, red, and black (represented by violets), and planted in the four directions.

"The Medicine Wheel will remind us daily of where our roots lie. This Wheel will remind us of the work that we are doing for us as we enter the office, to keep us grounded and never forget where we come from," says one staff member.

The second flowerbed is the Every Child Matters garden. Vibrant orange day lilies were planted to honour the children that never returned home from the Indian Residential Schools and the Survivors who are still experiencing the trauma from their time there and are on their healing journey. Space was left in the flower bed to plant our sacred medicines like tobacco and sage in

the future.

During the afternoon, a representative from the Thunder Bay—Superior North Lise Vaugeois Member of Provincial Parliament office, Dawson Mihichuk, Constituency Assistant, stopped in to deliver a Certificate of Recognition to commemorate Anishinaabe Giizhigad.

The day was filled with good medicine — working together, sharing stories and teachings, all while building our relationship with each other, and connecting with the land and our sister plants by getting our hands dirty.

Now, the Anishinabek Nation Fort William satellite office entrance is transformed into a more beautiful, welcoming space.

The Anishinabek Nation, staff, and E'Dbendaagzijing also celebrated Anishinaabe Giizhigad with host community Curve Lake First Nation where they shared in teachings, storytelling, feasting, and much, much more!

Anishinaabe Giizhigad commemorates the proclamation of the Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin and the adoption of the Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe on June 6, 2012. The day also honours our Anishinaabe identity, history, traditions, pride, and people!

Happy Anishinaabe Ghizigaad from the staff of Anishinabek Nation Fort William satellite office! Mno-waawiindandaa Anishinaabe Giizhigad — let's celebrate Anishinaabe Day!



Anishinabek Nation Head Gezit Richard Assinewai spoke to the importance of Anishinaabe Giizhigad in Curve Lake First Nation on June 6, 2023



Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe gave remarks at Anishinaabe Giizhigad.



Commissioner on Governance Patrick Madahbee spoke about being proud to be Anishinaabe.



Elder Josh Eshkawkogan told the origin story of Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe. He was one of several Elders who developed the preamble to the Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin.



Maya Chacaby, Professor and Anishinaabemowin Scholar shared Gikikinoo'amaatiwinaanan - Anishinaabe ways of teaching and learning.



Translated from Anishinaabemowin, B'Maakonigan means:  
"a governing body which guides, supports, and encourages."

"B'Maakonigan. That's governance. B'Maakonigan covers everything. It's how the law was put together for us from Manidoo. How we were governed and how everything else was governed."

ANISHINABEK NATION HEAD GETZIT RICHARD ASSINEWAI

**B'Maakonigan is the governing body of the signatory First Nations of the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement.**



**Supporting strong Anishinabek First Nation Governance for a brighter future and the future generations of E'Dbendaagzijig.**



**1980**  
The Anishinabek Nation Declaration of 1980 had 14 principle statements which received Grand Council approval by the Chiefs-in-assembly, which are connected to Anishinaabe Giizhigad (ie. We are Nations; inherent rights; right to our own form of government; right to self-determination, etc)

**1996**  
Development and proclamation of the Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin began.

**1999**  
Anishinabek First Nation citizens began the process of forming a Nation level constitution (under the guidance of the Restoration of Jurisdiction department of the Anishinabek Nation).

**2011**  
Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe, the Preamble, which provides the context and the spirit and intent in which the written Anishinabek Nation Constitution is understood was adopted by the Anishinabek Grand Council.

**2012**  
The Anishinabek Nation Grand Council confirmed the Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin on June 6, 2012, in Shegulaandah First Nation by The Pipe Ceremony.

**2018**  
The Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin is accepted and proclaimed by the Peoples of the Anishinabek Nation on May 1, 2018.

**2021**  
On November 17, 2021, the Anishinabek Nation Leadership Council proclaimed June 6 as Anishinaabe Giizhigad, our own national holiday.

**Anishinaabe Giizhigad: A History**

A graphic from the Anishinaabe Giizhigad resource showing the history of the day.

# Educational resources developed to support <sup>Page 13</sup> Anishinaabe Giizhigad held every June 6

ANISHINABEK NATION TERRITORY - The Kinoomaadziwin Education Body and Anishinabek Nation have jointly developed lesson plans surrounding Anishinaabe Giizhigad on June 6 and the preamble to the Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin (Constitution), Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe (One Anishinaabe Family), that are culturally-relevant and connect to the Ontario Curriculum.

The three Ontario Curriculum connections will help support teachers who are also learning about Anishinaabe Giizhigad.

“As the Anishinabek Nation celebrates Anishinaabe Ghizhgad on June 6th, it is important for everyone to understand the significance of the day. The Kinoomaadziwin

Education Body has partnered with the Anishinabek Nation to develop lesson plans to share with teachers and students across Ontario to help them learn about the significance of the Anishinabek Nation Chi-Naaknigewin (constitution),” states Kinoomaadziwin Education Body Director of Education Shining Turtle. “Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe defines who we are as Anishinabek and our responsibilities. We share our knowledge with the children and youth through these new lessons plans. We look forward to providing more teaching tools and resources in the near future.”

Anishinaabe Giizhigad commemorates the proclamation of the Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin and the adoption of the Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe on June 6,

2012. By virtue of the Anishinabek Nation Leadership Council, June 6 was proclaimed as Anishinaabe Giizhigad (Anishinaabe Day) on November 17, 2021. Anishinaabe Giizhigad is also a day to honour Anishinaabe identity, history, traditions, and pride.

“It is important that we continue to create tools and resources for teachers and students, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, in our communities to help them learn and remember and acknowledge the assertion of our sovereignty and responsibilities that are foremost guided by the Seven Grandfather Teachings in the Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe and our Chi-Naaknigewin,” states Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe. “It is important that we understand and recognize the significance

of June 6 and honour and celebrate being Anishinabek – our greatest strength is our Anishinaabe ways!”

The lesson plans include the topics: Why do we acknowledge June 6 as Anishinaabe Giizhigad?; Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin – what is it?; and the difference between Anishinaabe Giizhigad on June 6 and National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21. One of the lesson plans includes a reference to the Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe Colouring Book that was illustrated by artist Don Chretien of Nipissing First Nation. Anishinaabe Giizhigad lesson plans can be found at [www.anishinabek.ca/education-resources/](http://www.anishinabek.ca/education-resources/). Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe Colouring Book can be ordered on Goodminds.com.

## Line 5 jeopardizes the Great Lakes, Canada needs to re-examine its support

ANISHINABEK NATION TERRITORY - The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) has recommended that Canada and the United States decommission the Enbridge Line 5 oil pipeline. In the Final Report of its annual session, issued last week, the UNPFII recognized that Line 5 "jeopardize[s] the Great Lakes" and "presents a real and credible threat to the treaty-protected fishing rights of Indigenous Peoples in the United States and Canada." It called on Canada to reexamine its support for the pipeline, and for the pipeline to be shut down.

“The Anishinabek are the people of the Great Lakes and never before has there been such a unified call for action for both the United States and Canada to abandon failing fossil fuel infrastructure to protect our land and water,” states Bay Mills Indian Community Ogimaakwe (President) Whitney Gravelle.

Members of a mixed coalition of Anishinaabe leaders and environmental advocates attended the forum to advocate

for highlighting Line 5 as an Indigenous and Human Rights concern.

“Line 5 carries some of the dirtiest crude oil through the largest surface freshwater system on the planet, trespassing on Indigenous Peoples' territories and threatening widespread ecological harm. It's 20 years past its 50-year lifespan, and it's time to shut it down,” states Michelle Woodhouse, Water Program Manager at Environmental Defence Canada.

Tribal and First Nations look forward to further discussions with both Canada and the United States on this important issue and call for a collaborative effort to address the concerns raised in the report.

“Our decision to address the United Nations Permanent Forum on this matter reflects the Anishinabek Nation's unwavering commitment to ensuring Canada upholds its international obligations as a member of the global community,” states Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe.

The Anishinabek Nation and Bay Mills



Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief (right) attends an Assembly of First Nations press conference during Day 3 of the 22nd United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on April 19 in New York, Ny. - Photo by Laura Mayer

Indian Community believe that protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the environment should be a top priority for both governments. The Permanent Forum's recommendations serve as an important reminder of the need to work together to protect our planet and ensure a sustainable future for all.

The advocacy at the Forum follows a submission focused on Line 5 by

representatives of 51 Tribal and First Nations to the U.N. Human Rights Council for Canada's upcoming Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The submission highlights how Canada's support for Line 5 violates its human rights obligations and calls on Canada to reverse course and respect and protect the human rights of affected First Nations.

# RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING



## RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING TIPS:

Don't gamble alone!

Set reasonable limits on time and money spent.

Spend more time with your family.

Use gambling money for something special.

Get involved in other activities.

Magic and luck have nothing to do with it - keep it real.

Don't gamble to solve, cope with or avoid problems.

Don't borrow from family, friends, credit cards, or household monies.

Gamble only what you can afford for entertainment.

Be realistic - the odds are against you.

Gamble sober.

Leave credit cards, bank cards and cheque books at home.

Take regular breaks.

Don't try to win back your losses.

Learn more about gambling

**KEEP IT FUN !!!**

For Help, reach out! Ontario ConnexOntario Help Line 1-866-531-2600  
[www.responsiblegambling.org/for-the-public/problem-gambling-help/help-for-canadians](http://www.responsiblegambling.org/for-the-public/problem-gambling-help/help-for-canadians)

*Sponsored by the Anishinabek Nation Responsible Gambling Program*





Tim Ominika, Anishinabek Nation Mental Health and Addiction Systems Specialist, spoke at the inaugural Mental Health and Opioid Addiction Summit that took place on May 24 and 25 in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. To his right is Katie Pine, Opioid Strategic Planning Specialist

## Mental Health and opioid addiction key priority at Anishinabek Health Summit

By Jesse Johnson

SAULT STE. MARIE – The Anishinabek Nation’s Health Secretariat held its inaugural Mental Health and Opioid Addiction Summit on May 24 and 25 at the Quattro Hotel and Conference Centre in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., with more than 120 guests in attendance.

Elder Mary Elliott from Atikameksheng First Nation shared the Opening Prayer where she spoke about the importance of water and how cleansing, calming, and refreshing it is.

Ojibways of Garden River First Nation Chief Andy Rickard provided opening remarks and welcomed participants to his community’s traditional territory.

“We’ve lost community members and we’ve suffered; addiction has not only impacted families but the community as a whole,” he expresses. “I think it’s fitting

that we’re having this Summit in Sault Ste. Marie. It’s no secret that this is one of the worst areas for opioids and drug addiction. It doesn’t take much to drive downtown and see the impact drugs have had on this area.”

“Mental health is a tough topic at the Anishinabek,” adds Anishinabek Nation Lake Huron Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief Travis Boissoneau. “The communities are struggling with mental health and addictions; the realities are harsh and the challenges are real.”

Event Organizers Tim Ominika, Mental Health and Addiction Systems Specialist, and Katie Pine, Opioid Strategic Planning Specialist, shared some of the recommendations from a Mental Health, Addiction, and Opioid Summary Report that was completed earlier this year.

“If we work collectively, we can attack

these problems more effectively,” says Ominika.

Loretta Nootchtaï and Gerrilynn Manitowabi, members of the Health Transformation Team, provided a short overview of the project and its objectives.

“We are currently meeting with each First Nation’s Chief and Council so that we can introduce Health Transformation and discuss the best ways to move forward with this important initiative,” says Nootchtaï, Health Transformation Project Manager.

Participants heard presentations from different land-based program representatives including David George and Michelle Manitowabi who spoke about Wiikwemkoong’s Naandwe Miikan program; Sam Gilchrist who presented on the Aundeck Omni Kaning’s Gwekwaadziwin Miikan program; and, Elizabeth Richer and

Dorothy Coad who discussed North Shore Tribal Council’s Niigaaniin’s Mamaweswen program.

A Youth panel focused on sharing lived-experiences, which consisted of panelists Robert of Nipissing First Nation, and Daimien and Mandy from Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory.

Jonathan Peltier of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory presented on Reintegration from Incarceration: Overcoming Barriers to Mino Bimaadziwin.

“When you disappoint people, it plays a lot on your mental being. You feel low. The Grandfather Teachings taught me that when I speak about my truth, then I need to be honest.”

## Anishinabek Chiefs-in-Assembly reject the Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement

ANISHINABEK NATION HEAD OFFICE (June 12, 2023) — The Anishinabek Nation Chiefs-in-Assembly have unanimously passed a resolution on Day 2 of the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Assembly on June 8, rejecting the Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement between the Métis Nation of Ontario and Canada in its current form.

The 39 Anishinabek First Nations continue to assert that they are the only holders of inherent rights and jurisdiction over their traditional and treaty territories. The Métis Nation of Ontario and the Governments of Ontario and Canada cannot rewrite history to create a narrative of nationhood for the Métis where one does

not exist.

“This resolution highlights the importance of understanding treaties as sacred covenants between Nations and the Crown, recognizing the inherent rights and title First Nations,” says Lake Huron Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief Travis Boissoneau. “The Métis Agreement commits to granting treaty right recognition to numerous Métis community parties across Ontario without transparency in determining what constitutes a ‘Métis Community’ as per the Powley decision.”

The Powley case emphasized that self-identification as Métis must be genuine and cannot be made belatedly or opportunistically solely for the purpose of benefiting from Section 35 rights.

The Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement lacks consultation with the Anishinabek Nation regarding the granting of treaty rights to numerous individuals across Ontario. The Anishinabek Chiefs-in-Assembly emphasize the need for transparency in determining Métis Community, Métis citizenship, and Aboriginal rights. Once this transparency is established and the nature and scope of any non-constitutionally protected right are justified, there is a duty to consult and accommodate potentially impacted First Nations.

“Canada needs to immediately cease further implementation of the Métis Agreement in its current form. This

Agreement is an impediment to our sovereignty and jurisdiction. Meaningful consultations and accommodations with Anishinabek First Nations must occur before the Agreement is considered for adoption,” says Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe. “We cannot allow for unilateral decision-making to erode our sovereign, inherent and Treaty rights and traditional territories. It would be in the best interests of both governments to cease this arbitrary process.”

The Anishinabek Nation remains committed to upholding the rights and interests of its member First Nations across Ontario.



Photo by Laura Barrios.

# KOGANAAWSAWIN MOVING FORWARD

as a not-for-profit corporation.

Koganaawsawin, the central coordinating body of the Anishinabek Child, Youth, and Family Well-Being System, has received direction from Anishinabek First Nations to move forward with the Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Working Group's recommendation to incorporate Koganaawsawin as a not-for-profit corporation.

Anishinabek First Nations can choose to enact the *Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law* at any time. Koganaawsawin will continue to meet with, and support, all 39 Nations in the area of child, youth and family well-being!

 [koganaawsawin@anishinabek.ca](mailto:koganaawsawin@anishinabek.ca)

## OFFICE OF THE CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER


### ABINOOJINYAN ONJI E-BIMI KANG

Appointed at the Anishinabek Fall Assembly in 2019, Anishinabek Nation Children's Commissioner Duke Peltier is an independent voice for Anishinabek children and youth, advocating for their best interest(s), rights and well-being.

**Through the Anishinabek Nation Child, Youth, and Family Well-Being System, Anishinabek First Nations will develop and deliver the programs and services they determine are needed to support the well-being of Anishinaabe children, youth, and families.**

-Duke Peltier, Anishinabek Nation Children's Commissioner

Questions? Want to learn more about the Office of the Children's Commissioner?  
In need of advocacy or support? Contact:

**Kailee Dupuis**, Children's Commissioner Liaison  [kailee.dupuis@anishinabek.ca](mailto:kailee.dupuis@anishinabek.ca)





# Blueberry Bannock



8 Servings



25-30

minutes

## INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup (250 mL) whole-wheat flour
- 1 cup (250 mL) all-purpose flour
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup (175 mL) fresh or frozen blueberries
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) baking powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp (2 mL) ground cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{8}$  tsp (0.5 mL) salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup (125 mL) skim milk or milk alternative
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup (125 mL) water
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) canola oil

## DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 400°F (200°C).
2. In bowl, combine flours, blueberries, baking powder, cinnamon and salt.
3. Stir in milk, water and canola oil and, using hands, moisten all ingredients, handling dough as little as possible.
4. Turn dough out of bowl and place on lightly floured surface.
5. Using hands, form disc about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (1 cm) thick and about 9 – 10 inches (22 – 25 cm) in diameter. If necessary, sprinkle with flour to keep dough from sticking. Cut into 8 wedges.
6. Place wedges on parchment-lined baking sheet and bake for 15 – 20 minutes or until bannock is golden brown.

Information provided by Diabetes Program, Health Secretariat, Anishinabek Nation

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



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**The Anishinabek Educational Institute provides community and culturally based programs which prepare students for success.**

*Accessible education empowers students with disabilities to develop the same skills and achieve the same levels of knowledge as their peers.*

To learn more contact Megan Stevens  
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# NOW BOOKING ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

The Anishinabek Nation's Health Transformation Team is in the first phase of their engagement sessions. Phase one is introducing Health Transformation to interested Chiefs, Councils and health experts from our 39 First Nations.

The Team is available to meet and discuss Health Transformation and what that means for your community. We will present our information, answer your questions, and explain how Health Transformation can benefit Anishinaabe.

The Team is available to meet through Zoom or in-person at your convenience.



Please contact Lisa Restoule-Brazier at  
[lisa.restoule@anishinabek.ca](mailto:lisa.restoule@anishinabek.ca) for more information



Presented by the  
Anishinabek Nation Health Secretariat



# SAVE THE DATE

## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Anishinabek Nation Health Conference

**OCTOBER 17, 18, 19, 2023**

We hope everyone is well and we are looking forward to seeing each of you at the Best Western Hotel and Conference Centre in North Bay.

Please watch for your chance to submit a conference theme in Anishinaabemowin that promotes a health and wellness lifestyle.

There will also be a call-out for keynote and/or workshop(s) presenters in the coming months.

Be kind, take care of each other and keep up all your good work and remember, all that you do is special.

**PRESENTATIONS | WORKSHOPS | BOOTHS  
THE TONY H. JOCKO MEMORIAL HEROES IN HEALTH AWARD**