



Legacy of former Anishinabek Nation Chief Water Commissioner honoured in Pickering

By Rick Garrick

PICKERING — The late Water Walker Josephine Mandamin's family is honoured about the upcoming renaming of a Durham District School Board (DDSB) school in Pickering as the Biidassige Mandamin Public School. The currently named Sir John A. Macdonald Public School will be renamed at the start of the 2022-23 school year.

"It's been an overwhelming honour and just really makes us proud and grateful that my late mother's message and her legacy will still live on and inspire young children who walk through schools and be able to see themselves and also to be part of that learning that she's brought to many people and her belief in the younger generations and preserving and protecting the fresh water," says Regina Mandamin, Josephine's daughter. "Pickering being near Lake Ontario, my mother walked along that Great Lake as well and really connected with a lot of people in that area, so it's been a real overwhelming sense of pride and just seeing the love that still continues today for my mom."

Regina recalls seeing her mother's dedication, leadership skills, determination, and hard work during her Water Walks around the Great Lakes and along the St. Lawrence River and other waterways.

"It was also really inspiring for me to see how much she welcomed people and took time to meet people who wanted to speak with her and learn," Regina says. "It was just really heartwarming to see how many people, strangers I've never met, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, who were just very excited to meet her and the walkers and to learn how they can connect with water and inspiring people along the way to hold their own Water Walks in their communities."

Josephine Mandamin's leadership roles included holding the role of Chief Water Commissioner for the Anishinabek Nation, executive director at Ontario

Native Women's Association (ONWA), executive director at Beendigen Inc., and a Grandmother Council role in the Midewiwin Lodge.

"She provided a lot of guidance especially for the women in the Jingle Dress Society," Regina says. "She was very integral part and a leader of the Three Fires Midewiwin Healing Society as well as a fourth degree Midewiwin."

Josephine Mandamin, originally from Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, and affectionately called Grandmother Water Walker or Grandmother Josephine, dedicated her life to protecting the water and giving it a voice. She made it her life's mission to raise consciousness about the fragility of water and emphasize that water is precious, sacred, and one of the basic elements required for all life to exist — Water is life.

Cora McGuire-Cyrette, executive director at ONWA, says Josephine was a "very strong leader" within the Indigenous women's movement.

"She really role-modeled what Indigenous women's leadership looks like," McGuire-Cyrette says. "Congratulations to the Durham District School Board for making that systemic change and especially the renaming of a school and recognizing a leader in our community."

McGuire-Cyrette says Josephine never made excuses, she just did the work that needed to be done whether it was leading an organization or walking to bring awareness around water and all of the lakes.

"In honouring her memory and her legacy and bringing awareness to the global crisis of environmental damage and how we need collective movement today, and especially as Indigenous people, we need to take the work she was doing and we need to continue it and further bring awareness to the crisis that we're facing," McGuire-Cyrette says. "This has always been Indigenous people's responsibilities, and particularly



The late former Anishinabek Nation Chief Water Commissioner Josephine Mandamin.



Indigenous women's responsibilities, in looking at how we care for Mother Earth. We, as leaders today, need to honour her legacy and continue this work and look at what are we doing today."

The DDSB Board of Trustees voted to rename the school in Pickering as

the Biidassige (Josephine) Mandamin Public School on Jan. 17 based on a recommendation from the School Naming Committee, which was comprised of local trustees, staff, students, a member of the Indigenous Advisory circle and community members.



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The current circulation of the Anishinabek News is 3,000 copies.



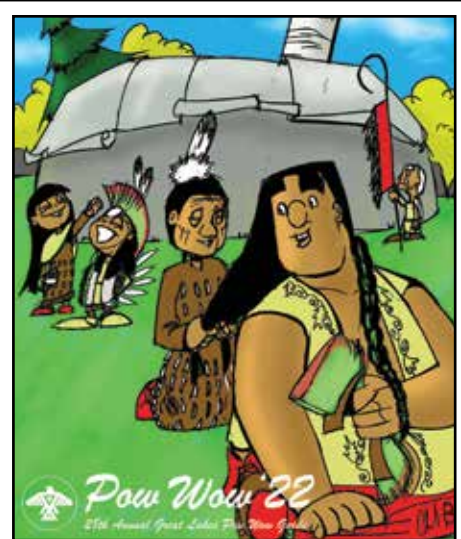
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ISSN 1182-3178 ANISHINABEK NEWS (PRINT)
ISSN 1923-0710 ANISHINABEK NEWS (ONLINE)



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Please note: This edition will only be online this year.

Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe testifies on Nuclear Waste Governance

By Anishinabek Nation Political Office Staff

ANISHINABEK NATION TERRITORY— On February 15, Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe provided a witness testimony to the Members of Parliament for the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development.

Accepting an invitation from Ontario Regional Chief Glen Hare, who could not attend due to prior commitments, Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe appreciated the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Chiefs of Ontario to ensure that a First Nation perspective was included as Canada moves towards developing governance on nuclear waste. He emphasized the importance of respecting Indigenous rights in the development of the nuclear industry and its impacts on First Nations in Ontario, throughout the allotted five-minute testimony.

Both the Chiefs of Ontario and the Anishinabek Nation have existing mandates, passed through resolutions by the Chiefs-in-Assembly over recent years to ensure environmental and water protection measures are continual priorities, including direction on the travelling and storage of nuclear waste throughout our territories. The mandates align how leadership advocate on behalf of our communities and confirm that government is required to provide the resources needed for the work communities want to progress in regards to their own self-determined efforts.

In his testimony, Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe wanted to iterate the importance of our inherent rights and responsibilities by stating, “I want to impress upon everyone that it is our inherent responsibility as Anishinaabe to protect Mother Earth; not just for us, but for all living beings who live upon it. We hold the Government of Canada to account to respect the rights of First Nations, including all 133 in Ontario. No decisions concerning Nuclear Waste Storage, the development of Small Modular Reactors, Transportation, or Decommissioning can be made absent our Free, Prior, and Informed



Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe.

Consent.” The testimony also emphasized the Joint Declaration between the Anishinaabek Nation and the Iroquois Caucus on the Transport and Abandonment of Radioactive Waste. The joint declaration focuses on five (5) principles of Nuclear Waste management agreed upon by the Grand Council Assembly and the Iroquois Caucus: 1) there should be no abandonment of waste; 2) containers should be strong and adaptable; 3) waste should be monitored and retrievable; 4) waste should be away from major water bodies; and 5) imports and exports should be forbidden save the most exceptional cases.

“Previous witnesses testified about how and in what way Indigenous communities need to be engaged. None of those individuals were Indigenous or represented by Indigenous communities. This is the root of the problem, these processes cannot move forward without full and deep engagement,” asserted Grand Council Chief Niganobe in response to being questioned about the adequacy of consultation with Indigenous communities.

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and the Nuclear Waste Management

Organization must respect Indigenous legal traditions and co-develop effective consultation methods.

Any development in the nuclear industry must involve Indigenous rights holders during the decision-making processes. How the Anishinaabe have been able to safeguard lands and resources for thousands of years is critical to the conversation about the perpetual stewardship of nuclear waste. Anishinaabe oral histories relate to the movement of water systems; the changes in placements of rivers or ponds are part of Anishinaabe knowledge systems. This information will be critical to the long-term maintenance of nuclear waste, which is very dangerous, especially when introduced to the water. Indigenous methods of scientific inquiry differ from Western methodologies because they are inclusionary of holistic concepts, not just impartial theory. These people-based systems will be critical as society transitions to a Net-Zero emissions by 2050.

The complete meeting, including where Grand Council Chief begins testimony at the 12:45pm timestamp, is available via ParlVu House of Commons website.

SAVE THE DATE

Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Assembly

Hosted by the Northern Superior Region from

May 31- June 2, 2022

Political Office Update - Winter 2022

In the next few weeks, the Anishinabek Nation Executive Council will be focused on targeted advocacy considering the upcoming Ontario Provincial election. In the past few weeks, the Political Office has supported the interests of Anishinabek First Nations in the areas of Education, Health, Justice, Treaty Rights, Lands Management, and Nuclear Waste.

In the upcoming weeks, the Political office will be meeting with Ontario Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks David Piccini to finish a meeting from February 2, to speak about Drinking Water, Duffins Creek Wetland Complex, and Environmental Monitors.

The Political Office is currently in the process of developing a Justice Team whose focus will be on addressing discrimination in policing, the judicial system, and other institutions. Under development (with the assistance of an external organization) is another project entitled “the Spirit of the Land” which will seek to understand the evolving issues of land valuation in the context of new legal decisions. Additional initiatives underway include the creation of Anishinabek Nation Veterans Table and a Lobby Day planned for March 2022. The Lobby Day meeting will be virtual and the Leadership Council Executive will look to plan a larger in-person meeting in this calendar year.

The Political Office is also pleased to announce that it is now fully staffed following the addition of three new staff members in

the New Year.

With varying stages of Anishinabek Nation Portfolio work being completed and the completion of staffing the Political Office team, notable mentions since the beginning of the New Year include:

- January 27: meeting via Zoom with Algoma-Manitoulin riding Member of Provincial Parliament Michael Mantha regarding the poor state and care of Northern roads

- February 2: meeting via Zoom with Ontario Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks David Piccini and Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks staff regarding environmental assessment modernization and Ontario Parks

- February 7: meeting via Zoom with Indigenous Affairs Ontario Deputy Minister Shawn Batiste and various members of the Ontario Ministry of Transportation with a future meeting request of Ministry of Transportation of Ontario Minister Caroline Mulroney

- February 9: meeting via Zoom with Minister of Indigenous Services and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario Patty Hajdu regarding a budget proposal for the Anishinabek Nation Health Transformation Project

- February 15: Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe was a testifying witness on behalf of the Chiefs of Ontario - Standing committee on Nuclear Waste Governance with the House of Com-



From left: Southwest Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief Joe Miskokomon, Southeast Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief James R. Marsden, Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe and Northern Superior Deputy Grand Council Chief Mel Hardy met for lunch during a leadership meeting held in North Bay in December.

mons Standing Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development

The Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Assembly will be taking place from May 31 to June 2, 2022, and will be hosted by the Northern Superior Region. We encourage our citizens to save the date and join us as we share the accomplishments and challenges of the previous year and set out new goals and mandates for the upcoming year.

Following the Grand Council Assembly, the Anishinabek Nation will be celebrating the inaugural Anishinabek Giizhigad on June 6, a holiday in honour of the historic proclamation of the Anishinaabe Chi-Naak-nigewin (constitution) on June 6, 2012. We encourage all Anishinabek Nation citizens to take part and celebrate the day. Celebrate the strength, beauty, and diversity within our nations and people. We also encourage our

non-Indigenous counterparts to take the time to learn about our new holiday, culture, traditions and history, and celebrate along with us.

The 43rd Ontario general election will also be held on or before June 2, 2022. At this time, Leadership encourages citizens to research candidate and party platforms and cast an informed vote for a candidate that best aligns with shared values and goals. It is important to vote in this election despite being from separate nations and systems because Anishinabek citizens have a voice with the ability to influence and affect change within all nations.

The Anishinabek Nation Executive Council looks forward to continuing to serve the Anishinabek Nation and its member First Nations. Wishing all citizens good health and continued safety during this time.

Anishinabek Nation stands with the Orange Shirt Society

ANISHINABEK NATION HEAD OFFICE (February 11, 2022) – Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe responds to recent calls to action from the “Freedom Convoy” currently occupying Ottawa which sits on the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Nations.

“The Anishinabek Nation continues to condemn the appropriation and co-opting of Indigenous grassroots organizations and we do not support today’s call for action, suggesting that Orange Shirt Day is being observed on February 11, under the guise of the Orange Shirt Society organized by supporters of the ‘Freedom Convoy’.

The Anishinabek Nation recognizes and honours Orange Shirt Day on September 30, started by Phyllis Webstad and her personal Indian Residential School story. Orange Shirt Day was initiated to draw awareness to injustices perpetrated against Indigenous children. I echo Phyllis Webstad’s statement, ‘... Orange Shirt Society does not endorse the recent announcement of Orange Shirt Day occurring on February 11 by protest organizers.’ To associate this noble cause with hatred is deplorable and insulting to the spirit of its intent. Many of our children were killed by communicable diseases that could have been prevented if they were afforded the proper public health measures such as masks and distancing under the protection and care of their own families.

In an attempt to gain more support, organizers of this movement continue to deceive Indigenous citizens into joining their efforts by falsely attributing causes, which our Nations have been impacted by for many years. Attempts have been made to entice our peoples to join through calls for our “warriors” and “braves”. Ceremonies

are being held with improper protocol, and now, the exploitation of the Indian Residential School Survivors and children in the unmarked graves and being used as a tool of malignment. These requests are made by individuals who have openly endorsed and repeated racist behaviours towards Indigenous peoples. Furthermore, these attempts to exploit our sovereignty under the perception of shared oppression are false and unacceptable. They are merely experiencing a loss of privilege, not a loss of rights, unlike their Indigenous counterparts inherently oppressed by the Indian Act.

In their latest attempt, they have requested youth to participate in an “Ontario school-wide walkout”. This walkout is allegedly in opposition to all mandates— mandates that have undoubtedly saved lives in our First Nations.

Anishinaabe legal traditions value communal responsibility and reciprocity over individual freedoms. Many stories of illnesses that previously affected our communities have been shared during the COVID-19 pandemic. One of our methods of treating it was to move to separate winter camps so that families would not infect one another. To protect our Nations and kin, we made sacrifices. The Anishinaabek have a long history of critical thought, and we encourage our people to look at the underlying messages of this group and understand that it only mentions Indigenous concerns when it is beneficial for their rhetoric.”

To make a real difference in the lives of Indigenous children, please consider donating to First Nations Caring Society. People can also donate directly to the Orange Shirt Society.

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New members welcome

Health Transformation Working Group gaining momentum early in the year

By Jesse Johnson

ANISHINABEK NATION TERRITORY — The Anishinabek Nation’s Health Transformation Team held their second working group meeting on Jan. 12 through Zoom.

Loretta Nootchtai, Health Transformation Project Manager, is proud of the progress made so far and looks forward to holding more meetings with the Health Transformation Working Group this year. The group reviewed their draft Terms of Reference, discussed their list of Frequently Asked Questions, and received a presentation on Indigenous Services Canada.

The Team has had many areas questioned throughout discussions including infrastructure and human resources. They will all be assessed for each community through environmental scans and needs assessments. Communities are encouraged to think ahead to the community engagement sessions and keep those areas in mind when thinking about their community needs.

In planning, the direction in which the Anishinabek Nation’s Health Transforma-

tion process is going requires continual direct input from member Anishinabek First Nations through the community engagement session processes.

The Anishinabek Nation Health Transformation Working Group, comprised of various member First Nations representatives and healthcare professionals, regularly provides guidance, leadership and direction to the Anishinabek Nation’s Health Transformation negotiations team.

The Working Group will contribute to the gathering of community-level feedback on the draft plans and recommendations that will capture concerns and aspirations; involve all citizens in the planning and designing of a holistic system that will ensure ideas and concerns are reflected; and, include direction from leadership, management, front-line workers, and all citizens living on and off-reserve.

Donna Smith-Sutherland, Kettle & Stony Point First Nation Health Committee member, says she is excited about attending the Health Transformation meetings because she

believes this work is important for the future health and well-being of Anishinabek.

“The work being done by the Anishinabek Nation Health Transformation staff and the participation and feedback provided by the Working Group are productive and I look forward to attending future meetings.”

First Nations will be central to the design and implementation of health services at the community level. Each community will have the opportunity to set its own priorities, for example, increasing mental health and wellness programs while decreasing other less immediate programs. It will be entirely up to the First Nation to decide what works best for them.

“I believe that Indigenous experts and Elders determining the priorities and developing the appropriate services and resources will positively impact our holistic well-being as individuals, communities and as a Nation,” says Smith-Sutherland. “Once we are able to address and positively impact the pre-determinants of health in our communities, we will begin to heal and move

beyond the historical trauma imposed on our people.”

Lisa Restoule-Brazier, Anishinabek Nation Health Transformation Engagement and Working Group Coordinator, has been responsible for organizing the Working Group meetings.

“The Working Group is going to work at the First Nation’s pace so that we can make sure we get everything right,” says Restoule-Brazier.

The Health Transformation Working Group is still accepting new members to participate in the development of a new health system by Anishinabek for Anishinabek.

For more information, to book a community engagement session, or to inquire on how to become a Working Group member, please contact Lisa Restoule-Brazier via e-mail: Lisa.restoule@anishinabek.ca or contact your First Nation’s Chief and Council or Health Director.

To learn more about the Anishinabek Nation’s Health Transformation, please visit www.health-transformation.ca.



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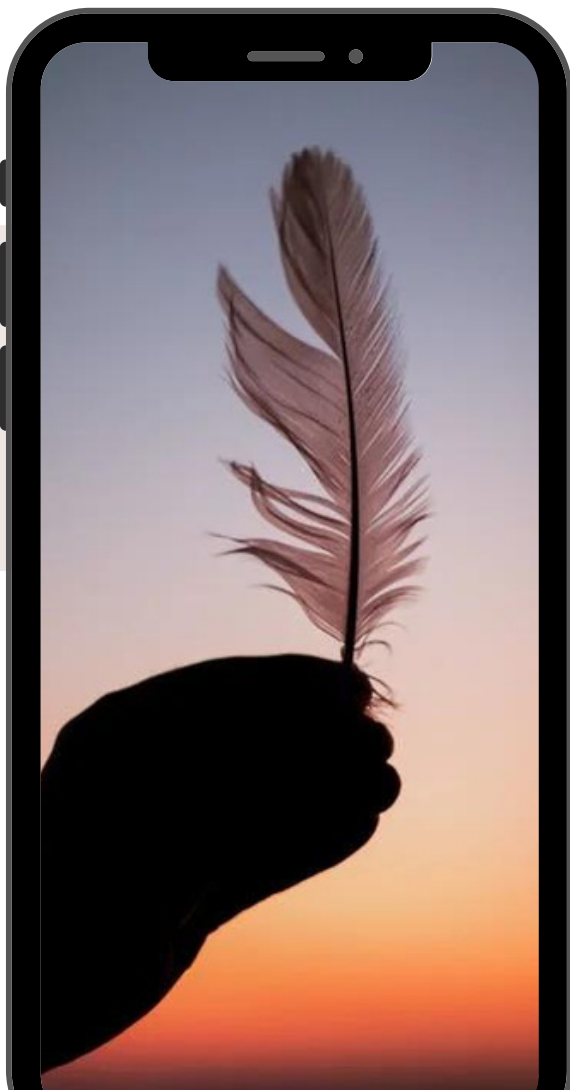
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Honour Songs

Former Anishinabek Nation Head Getzit Mishomis Gordon Waindubence begins his journey into the Spirit World

ANISHINABEK NATION HEAD OFFICE (November 24, 2021) – It is with profound sadness to announce that former Anishinabek Nation Head Getzit Mishomis Gordon Waindubence (Shiikenh) has begun his journey into the Spirit World today at his home in Sheguiandah First Nation surrounded by the warmth and love of his family.

“It is during this time that we send our thoughts and love to his family and loved ones. We are forever grateful to his family for selflessly sharing their patriarch with us in this lifetime,” states Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe. “As his journey to the Spirit World begins, he will be greatly missed earthside. His Spirit will have many songs and prayers in his honour from across the Anishinabek Nation that will help guide him along his way. His teachings and kindness extended to each of our 39 communities and beyond and will continue to be shared well into the future. On behalf of the Anishinabek Nation, we express our unending gratitude to Getzit and his loving family. Baa maa pii.”

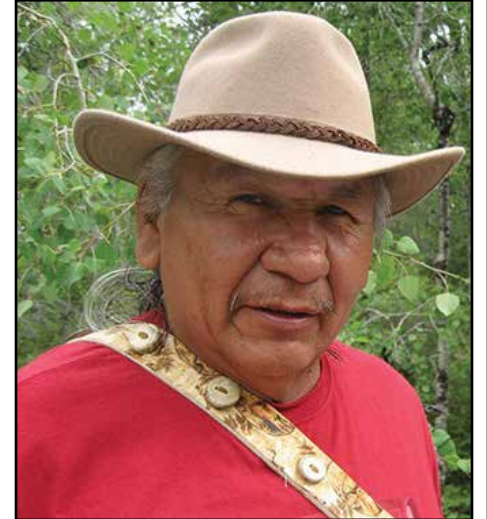
Getzit always had a grand vision for the Anishinabek Nation. He travelled across all of Turtle Island to visit Anishinabek to gain knowledge through ceremony and song. He gave the Anishinabek Nation Leadership direction on how to build a nation — one filled with deeply-rooted tradition, culture, and Anishinaabemowin. He sought to bring back the Dodemaag (Clan) system and create an Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin (constitution) in order to strengthen traditional governance. Getzit provided education and awareness of Treaties and the importance of not only our relationship with settler governments, but especially amongst each other as Anishinaabe people and with Mother Earth. Getzit lived by and embodied the Seven Grandfather Teachings in his day-to-day activities and in his Teachings he shared with anyone who had the willingness to listen and learn. Those fortunate to have had the opportunity to participate in Getzit’s Dodemaag Teachings, ceremonies, or share in some cedar tea with him, will know that he also had a great sense of humour and in-

fectious laugh.

On Nov. 17, the Anishinabek Nation proclaimed June 6 the Anishinabek Nation holiday, Anishinabek Giizhigad, in honour of the historic proclamation of the Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin.

Although Getzit imparted everlasting knowledge and made impactful contributions in many areas at the Anishinabek Nation, one of his greatest contributions is the guidance and dedication he shared in the development of the Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin and the Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe (One Anishinaabe Family). The Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin was developed in consultation with Anishinabek First Nations leaders and citizens over the course of 13 years. Throughout this period, the consultations process was done according to proper protocols, rules, order, and ceremonies, including Dodemaag (Clan) teachings led by Getzit.

In 2011, the Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin Preamble, Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe, was approved by Chiefs-in-Assem-



Former Anishinabek Nation Head Getzit Mishomis Gordon Waindubence (Shiikenh).

bly. The Preamble contains instructions on how to live according to the Laws the Creator has given to the Anishinabek. Getzit sat with an Elders Council to create the Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe, which provides the context and the spirit and intent in which the Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin is understood.

The Anishinabek Nation will be eternally grateful for the Teachings, leadership, and friendship received from Getzit throughout the years and will honour him by carrying those Teachings and continuing the work he so strongly supported.

Anishinabek Nation saddened by loss of First Nations rights champion Tom Bressette

ANISHINABEK NATION HEAD OFFICE (January 14, 2022) – It is with profound sadness that Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe announces the passing of former Chief and Councillor of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation, Tom Bressette.

“I am deeply saddened to learn of the death of Tom Bressette-baa,” expresses Grand Council Chief Niganobe. “He has been a strong activist and voice for First Nation rights which has spanned decades. Throughout a remarkable life of leadership, he advocated and lobbied governments in a common vision of equality and unity to advocate for a better future for First Nations people. While he was best known for his strong voice, his actions also resonate throughout the Anishinabek Nation territory and beyond; we will certainly benefit from his hard work and dedication for years to come.”

Tom-baa served in the US Army for a period of time, travelling as far as Germany and other locations. Colleagues have remarked that it is through this service that he became disciplined in his roles. He began his career in First Nations as an addictions counsellor and was always an advocate on healthcare-related issues and that carried into every aspect of his work. He chaired

the Anishinabek Police Service for several years, with a strong voice in ensuring parity of adequate safety equipment, the implementation of effective community safety practices, and establishing a high level of professionalism was consistent in the force. He also held the positions of former Ontario Regional Chief and Anishinabek Nation Regional Chief where he led many successful initiatives and was instrumental in the establishment of Aboriginal Financial Officers Association (AFOA). This was done in order to promote fiscal relationships and to provide training and certification for professional public service workers. Additionally, he was the former Southwest Region Anishinabek Nation Leadership Council Representative where he shared his wealth of knowledge and provided guidance.

When he was Chief in his community of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation, he worked alongside then-Grand Chief of Manitoba Phil Fontaine in honouring Elijah Harper for his work on the Meech Lake Accord. Along with Manny Jules and Southwest Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief Joe Miskokomon, Tom-baa spearheaded the Statistical and Land Management Act and pushed for a statistical institution for First Nation care and control

of First Nation data and information. This was done to ensure a mechanism would be in place to challenge governments to include the science of relevant and accurate data behind programs and funding allocations. It has resulted in improved financial management capabilities in First Nations, as well as an avenue with which to challenge governments through the empowerment of accurate data. Tom-baa also worked to help settle the Ipperwash Inquiry. The Report of the Ipperwash Inquiry came out in 2007 and Tom-baa was an advocate for the implementation of those recommendations that set the stage for resolving issues across the country.

Tom-baa was also heavily involved in governance work and is well-known and respected for having a strong presence in assemblies. In his own community, he championed many notable actions in the areas of adequate housing, water and wastewater treatment, infrastructure, and the building of a health centre in his community, among many other things. He was also a strong supporter of Anishinabek Nation Health Transformation and spoke strongly about the need for a system to be created by Anishinabek, for Anishinabek. His dedication, achievements, and contributions were boundless and his



Former Chief of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation Tom Bressette. - Photo by Laura Barrios

voice and presence will be deeply missed. Tom-baa and his continuous efforts were honoured through distinction, including an Anishinabek Lifetime Achievement Award and a Distinguished Heroes in Health Award.

“On behalf of all Anishinabek Nation citizens and leadership, I offer our deepest condolences to Tom-baa’s family, friends, and Kettle and Stony Point First Nation. His unwavering advocacy, passion, and dedication to First Nation rights, governance, health, community safety, along with his boundless love for his community, will continue to inspire us all,” states Grand Council Chief Niganobe.

Restoring and recognizing inherent jurisdictions

By Mary Laronde

In 1995, the Grand Council of Chiefs decided to enter into self-government negotiations with Canada as a way to restore inherent jurisdictions that were quashed by the *Indian Act*. Two tables were set-up to negotiate two areas: education and governance.

The big concern was that under the Inherent Right policy, Canada had pre-determined the outcome. As far as negotiations with Canada or Ontario go, both are driven by policy. The Anishinabek approach was to enter the process and see what the Anishinabek could accomplish.

As it turned out, over the course of 25 years, Canada's policy changed and evolved. Our negotiators brought back the best-negotiated agreements they could reach. Today, we have an Anishinabek Education System and the 23 First Nations that ratified the Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement and are self-governing in education from JK to Grade 12.

In the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement, the Indian Act provisions governing elections, band membership, the conduct of band

meetings, and the passing of Band Council Resolutions requiring the Minister's approval, will be replaced by federal legislation that recognizes Anishinabek First Nations' inherent jurisdiction.

It is important to note that the *Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement* and the *Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement* take precedence over the federal legislation. Canada is obligated to enact legislation to bring the negotiated agreements into effect. The "enabling" federal legislation is a recognition of existing, inherent rights, not a creation of those rights.

The premise of the negotiations process was that Inherent Rights and Treaty Rights would not be affected in any way. Resetting the relationship and implementing treaties is ongoing work, in other processes.

In the Agreements, the Minister is not involved in creating, passing, or approving Anishinabek First Nation education or governance laws or dealing with appeals. In other words, we, as Anishinabek, are responsible in those areas in which we exercise jurisdiction.

Since 1995, we have created:

- an Appeals and Redress System that is the beginning of an Anishinaabe system of justice;

- 30 First Nation constitutions that were developed by the community members and that guide their law-making processes;

- an Anishinabek Education System under First Nation governance entering its fifth year of successful operations;

- the Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin, including the Preamble: Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe, One Anishinaabe Family and;

- an Anishinabek citizenship law model: E'Dbendaagzijig Naaknigewin.

Most importantly, we helped our former and late Head Getzit Gordon Wandubence (Shiikenh)-baa in bringing our Anishinaabe Clan Teachings and Traditional Governance workshops to Anishinabek First Nation citizens in their communities throughout the Anishinabek Nation.

Whether your First Nation signs on to the *Education Agreement* or the *Governance Agreement*, you have most likely reaped benefits from the Restoration of Jurisdiction process. Even if you have held a ratification vote that was not successful, the dialogue that

occurred is important.

In the end, the Agreements restore some inherent jurisdictions and provide a government-to-government relationship in the form of an enhanced political relationship with Canada, a greatly enhanced fiscal transfer arrangement, and the removal of the Minister from our business.

The more we move away from the *Indian Act* and replace it with our own laws and our own ways, the better off we will be. Remember, the Indian Act was aimed to destroy our way of life and assimilate Anishinabek. The Indian Act was a full-on attack on Anishinabek and Anishinaabe Aadziwin (Way of Life).

Today, the Indian Act still rules nearly every aspect of our lives. The *Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement*, like the *Education Agreement*, is another step away from the Indian Act without giving anything up except Ministerial oversight in those areas where we have restored our inherent jurisdictions.

We have done a lot of work since 1995. And we did it all in consultation with Anishinabek citizens—E'Dbendaagzijig. We have much work to do going forward. Niigan Zhaamin.

OUR WAY FORWARD

Advancing Indigenous Relations in Thunder Bay

Do you want to see more Indigenous spaces?

Increased cultural awareness? More responsive City services? Additional community supports? A focus on anti-racism education?

Share your feedback on these and other initiatives.

Our new **Indigenous Relations & Inclusion Strategy** has identified important areas of focus. Your feedback will help us plan our yearly path forward as we make change in our community.

Complete the survey online or pick-up a survey at various community locations.



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Register for a **virtual session** this May to join the conversation.

Help us prioritize actions and discuss how MAAMAWE (*all together*) we can collectively implement change in Thunder Bay.

UPCOMING SURVEY: MARCH 14 – APRIL 17, 2022

Take the survey. Attend a session. Miigwetch for getting involved.

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Leaders discuss citizenship and E'Dbendaagzijig - Those who belong

By Rick Garrick

ANISHINABEK NATION TERRITORY — The Anishinabek Nation E'Dbendaagzijig (Citizenship) Virtual Conference featured presentations by Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe and other leaders on the Importance of a First Nation Citizenship Law, E'Dbendaagzijig (Those Who Belong) and Impacts of Indian Status and Moving Forward under the *Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement*. The conference was held on Feb. 1 via Zoom.

“We have a right to self-determination, and nothing speaks more loudly to that right than the right to determine those who belong; who is a First Nation citizen, who is Anishinabe and exactly what does that mean,” Grand Council Chief Niganobe says, noting that Anishinabe women and children were denied inclusion in their communities due to the *Indian Act* and thousands of Anishinabe children were taken away from their families and placed in Indian Residential Schools and foster homes. “This is our legacy under the *Indian Act* but now we’re looking at strengthening that circle and bringing it back together. Anishinabek have an opportunity to strengthen that circle and heal our commu-

ities by putting citizenship laws in place that recognize our family members as those who belong.”

Anishinabek Nation Southeast Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief James Marsden says the First Nation jurisdiction within the *Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement* include language and culture, leadership selection, operation and management of government, and citizenship.

“Citizenship is a complex issue that we must really dig deep to solve,” Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief Marsden says, noting that his community was previously involved in a self-government agreement process under the United Anishinaabe Councils but pulled out when citizenship was not included. “Every country in this world, they determine their own citizens, so why can’t we as First Nations people determine our own citizens?”

Patrick Wedaseh Madahbee, Anishinabek Nation Commissioner on Governance and former Grand Council Chief, says First Nations need to practice inclusion, not exclusion like the *Indian Act* does during his Importance of a First Nation Citizenship Law presentation.

“When the *Indian Act* came about in 1876, they started using it as an administrative tool to try to eliminate our people,” Madahbee says. “They said we were pagans and uncivilized, they shot down our ceremonies, they shot down our beliefs, they shot down our languages, they shot down our culture and they’ve done this for over 145 years. We’re still here, we’re a very resilient people. Our Elder, the late Getzit Gordon Waindubence-baa, told us a moose is a moose, a duck is a duck, and an Anishinabe is an Anishinabe — you can’t be anything else so why the government tries to change us is beyond me, they will never change who we are as Anishinabe.”

Jeannette Corbiere Lavell, Anishinabek Nation Citizenship Commissioner, says the consequences of marrying a non-Indigenous man didn’t hit her until she received a letter a month later stating she was no longer a citizen of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory during her E'Dbendaagzijig (Those Who Belong) presentation.

“The impact that has on people is very hard hitting — that was the only place I knew, I was born in Wiikwemkoong, I went to school there, all my relatives are there, I had lots of friends there,” Corbiere Lavell says. “The really hurtful aspect of all of this, of taking away that sense of your identity, [was] where else could I belong, where else was my home. That is why our topic today on citizenship, E'Dbendaagzijig, is so crucial; that sense of belonging is a vital part of each individual. All of us need that sense of belonging. We are social beings, we have to live together, we have to have that social interaction. Mothers with their children, grandparents with grandchildren, all that is social interaction and this is what we have within our communities.”

Corbiere Lavell says the main message she got through her citizenship consultation process on the approved Anishinabek Nation



Jeannette Corbiere Lavell, Anishinabek Nation Citizenship Commissioner

E'dbendaagzijig Naaknigewin was they did not want the type of division in the Indian Act.

“We know who our people are, we know who our ancestors are and all we want is if you can trace your ancestry on either side, either through your mother’s side or your dad’s side and go back to your grandparents, then you are Anishinabe, you are a [citizen] of the Anishinabek Nation,” Corbiere Lavell says.

Elder Donna Debassige, member of the Anishinabek Nation Getzidijig Advisory Council, says there was “so much trauma and heartbreak” among the Indigenous women and children who lost their status under the *Indian Act* during her Impacts of Indian Status and Moving Forward presentation.

“Refugees in their own country, that’s basically what they ended up being,” Elder Debassige says. “We must not continue this oppression of the oppressor by using the *Indian Act* against our own people — we know better. The *Indian Act* registration and status provisions have removed so many people from their communities, it has divided families, it has divided communities in our own Nation and created so much division. Women were particularly affected because we lost Status through marrying a non-Status person, Indian or otherwise.”

Implementation Working Group Update

Currently, the First Nations that have ratified the *Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement* are moving forward with internal transition and pre-implementation activities, as well as participating in the Implementation Working Group (IWG), comprised of the ratifying First Nations including Magnetawan, Wahnapiatae, Moose Deer Point, Nipissing, Zhiibaahaasing and others.

The draft enabling federal legislation, the *Anishinabek Nation Governance Act*, has been received from Canada for review and comment by the ratifying First Nations.

Meanwhile, our Fiscal Advisor and a representative of the Ministry of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs

Canada (CIRNAC) are updating the funding amounts in 2022 values. This is resulting in an increase in funding that the First Nations will receive per year in the first five-year Fiscal Transfer Agreement.

The IWG is working with Canada to develop the protocols for the Anishinabek-Canada Intergovernmental Forum.

Most exciting is the work the ratifying First Nations will do to create the collective body to support the ratifying First Nations in their governance activities. The possibilities for a coordinated approach to restore Anishinaabe Governance, Anishinaabemowin, and Anishinaabe Aadziwin are exciting. Since 1995, Anishinabek have been clear on their

priorities: Language, Culture, Traditional Governance, Unity, and providing for the children and youth seven generations ahead.

The IWG Chair and Commissioner on Governance Patrick Wedaseh Madahbee, Fred Bellefeuille, Legal Counsel, and Janet Esquimaux, Governance Transition Plan Coordinator continue to help to facilitate meetings and will provide technical support to the First Nations individually and collectively.

There are nine major activities: the development of an initial body of First Nation Laws; establishment of Anishinabek Nation and First Nation registries; a repository of Laws; development and

maintenance of a system for Access to Information and Privacy for First Nations and Anishinabek Nation; the development of the fiscal transfer arrangements; the establishment of spending authorities; enforcement and adjudication; and harmonization and alignment of Education and Governance. This will include the preparation of a work plan for the transition period along with creating Human Resource Capacity (Governance Position) at the First Nation level.

A Terms of Reference has been adopted in principle to guide the IWG.

Niigaan Zhaamin – Forward Together



governancevote.ca

Lifetime Achievement Awards presented virtually to deserving Anishinabek

ANISHINABEK NATION TERRITORY – The 2020 Evening of Excellence took place virtually on Jan. 27, 2022, to honour those who have made their communities stronger and have enriched the lives of many with Anishinabek Lifetime Achievement Awards. Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief presented the awards at the 21st annual event which is normally a very wonderful in-person event.

Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity Manager Jason Restoule says that he hopes to host the 2021 event in person summer 2022. The Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity (AN7GC) is committed to improving the quality of life of Anishinabek Nation citizens by providing support where no other funding exists.



Rubina Nebenionquit – Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, Anishinabek Lifetime Achievement Award in the Environment category

Rubina Nebenionquit has dedicated herself to the stewardship and protection of Atikameksheng lands for over 20 years. She began serving her community in 1978, working as a librarian and coordinating programming for youth and Elders. Realizing that youth were committing to public programming, she began to explore intergenerational programs including making regalia for the recently revitalized pow wows. In 1986, she began her role as the Lands Trust Officer, working in land management and administration. She was instrumental in guiding the developmental phases of the land-use planning and environmental protection planning following the community's ratification of its land code in 2008. Many Indigenous employees face balancing trust and commitment to her people while still abiding by rules and procedures of provincial and federal governments. Rubina spent time enhancing her understanding of non-Indigenous governance through education during evenings and weekends. This experience opened doors to enhanced municipal relations, emphasized the importance of partnerships, and created a clear channel of communication with non-Indigenous partners. Through all this, Rubina says, "Keep two minds when you are a servant of the government, and you have to keep your people in mind. Your people come first, no matter what."



Sandra Margaret Peltier - Wiikwemkoon Unceded Territory, Anishinabek Lifetime Achievement Award in the Culture category

Sandra Peltier is a survivor of Indian Day School and is committed to the preservation of Anishinaabemowin. As a young parent she made the difficult decision to pursue her education, having to leave her children with extended family for periods while she travelled to school. It soon paid off as she successfully completed her studies and became a teacher. Her focus is on Anishinaabemowin, sharing her knowledge with youth and becoming a language specialist within her community. She also works with special needs children, accommodating the needs of the gifted children in her community. Outside of these interests, she can always be found lending a helping hand at cultural events and fundraisers, working toward the betterment of the community.



James Megwanabe – Whitefish River First Nation, Anishinabek Lifetime Achievement Award in the Public Service category

James Megwanabe was born and raised in his community of Whitefish River First Nation. Serving his community as a councillor for two terms, he also served as the Public Works Manger and Fire Chief. Through his leadership and guidance, the community was able to acquire the proper equipment to ensure the Fire Brigade was properly outfitted with the required equipment. During his time, he was instrumental in the formation of a Mutual Aid Assistance Agreement with the neighbouring communities and First Nation Fire Departments ensuring expanded

fire services and rescue capacity for all. As fire departments are often underfunded, James worked tirelessly coordinating and supporting numerous fundraising activities raising tens of thousands of dollars. These funds were used to purchase a new fire pumper truck, a rescue van, auxiliary equipment and uniforms. He was also very active with the community's sports and recreation over the years as a coach, founder, and player.



Jim Meness – Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation, Anishinabek Lifetime Achievement Award in the Political Leadership category

Jim Meness has been a councillor for his community of Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation since 1999. He has dedicated his life to working with and for his home community holding many portfolios over the past 20 plus years. Most recently he has held the Health and Economic Development portfolios and has been successful in achieving a family Health Team for the community and was an essential part of the establishment of a new Assisted Living Centre for seniors. He has also been instrumental in economic development initiatives, contributing to the development of green energy projects, which are now generating income for the First Nation. Jim is also very active and deeply involved in the Algonquin Land Claim negotiations in the Ottawa Valley. He is recognized for his leadership skills and his dedication to his community, which is why he has been elected to Council for over 20 years.



Ivy Restoule - Dokis First Nation, Anishinabek Lifetime Achievement Award in the Arts and Culture category

At the age of 86 years, Ivy Restoule is still an active member in her community of Dokis First Nation. She is known for her leather craft work making moccasins, mitts, mukluks, and many other traditional

items. She is a champion when it comes to skinning and pelt handling, winning several competitions over the years. She has spent much time teaching and sharing this important cultural knowledge within her own community as well as in other communities, travelling as far as Thunder Bay. When it comes to harvesting, she teaches how to truly respect the animals that are harvested for sustenance. These days she continues to participate in traditional teachings with the youth to ensure they receive cultural teachings and life skills that can be passed to future generations. She promotes an active lifestyle. As a community Knowledge Keeper, she is still called upon to help with guidance and support.



Hazel Recollet – M'Chigeeng First Nation, Anishinabek Lifetime Achievement Award in the Public Service category

Hazel Recollet leads by example using her culture and language along the way. At the start of her career, she worked for 26 years in the Department of Indian Affairs servicing First Nation communities in her role as a funding officer. In this role she worked closely with many First Nations along the Northshore and Manitoulin Island, aiding in financial arrangements, budgeting, reporting, accountability framework, employee benefits, capital and infrastructure, as well as social and youth employment. For the past 18 years, she has worked with the United Chiefs and Councils of Manitoulin as their CEO, holding the highest responsibility and accountability to the Tribal Chair and Board of Directors. She oversees the overall operation, administration, and delivery of programs and services supporting Manitoulin First Nations in several areas such as education, economic





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development, technical services, among others. For over 40 years she has followed the Seven Grandfather Teachings in her daily responsibilities, sharing the language and culture and is a truly an inspiring role model to others.



Deborah Pegahmagabow – Wasauksing First Nation, Anishinabek Lifetime Achievement Award in the Public Service category

Deborah Pegahmagabow has been an inspiration for the citizens of Wasauksing First Nation for many years. She has been serving her community for a number of years as a Councillor prior to becoming the community's Director of Health. She has made a great positive impact for the community by expanding the health facility and adding new staff and much needed equipment. Since the pandemic began, under Deborah's guidance, the community's clinic was transformed into a nursing station, engaging the services of a nurse practitioner and a part-time physician. This allowed health services to be administered to citizens in a comfortable and familiar setting. She has been a steady beacon of hope for citizens of Wasauksing First Nation for many years and currently throughout these uncertain times. The dedication and sacrifice that she has demonstrated is more than deserving of this recognition.



Mary Jo Wabano - Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, Anishinabek Lifetime Achievement Award in the Health category

Mary Jo Wabano has been instrumental in progressive health innovative projects and initiatives that have had far-reaching impacts locally, provincially, and nationally. Since 1985, she has dedicated her time and energy working with First Nation youth and in the field of health. Currently serving as Health Services Director in her home community of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, she has a passion for children's health and believes that we must plan for the seven generations to come. She has worked tirelessly for many years focusing on health promotion and service, innovative programming, and youth focused activities. Most recently she has worked on the development of a key initiative; an Indigenous children's health and well-being measure to

assist First Nations to identify local health needs regarding services from the child's view utilizing cultural beliefs. Mary Jo has completed much research and has published many papers over the years in the areas of health and children's health. Her accomplishments are too many to mention and her impact throughout the Anishinabek Nation and beyond is too big to measure. She truly is a role model and the work that she has done and continues to do will have a lasting positive impact for First Nation youth for generations.



The late Ferguson Plain - Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Anishinabek Lifetime Achievement Award in the Arts category accepted by son Dakota

The late Ferguson Plain was an acclaimed children's storybook author, accomplished artist, a knowledge keeper and a teacher of Anishinaabemowin. Ferguson was born with birth defects affecting his limbs. He ultimately had to have his legs removed before the age of 5. Despite growing up and living life with these disabilities, he always maintained a positive outlook, had positive words to share with others and maintained a good sense of humour. Traditionally, he used the Seven Grandfather Teachings to help guide him. He was a self-taught artist and all his works are based on Ojibwe culture. His art hangs in many galleries along with commissioned murals and paintings. He has made his home community of Aamjiwnaang proud with the publication of numerous children's storybooks that told of community members, cultural teachings, and Anishinaabemowin. In 1993, he was awarded the Commemorative Medal for his significant contribution to Canada. In addition to his storybooks and art, he taught history, Native studies, and Anishinaabemowin in many schools and communities. Throughout his life his family was always a priority. He was a loving Father, husband, grandfather and uncle. Sadly, he recently passed away in January of 2020. He will always be an inspiration and a role model in his community and for First Nation people.



The late Theresa Recollet – Whitefish River First Nation, Anishinabek Lifetime Achievement Award in the Public Service category accepted by son Andy

The late Theresa Recollet tirelessly served her community of Whitefish River First Nation as a leader in the administrative

department for over 40 years in addition to serving two terms as councillor. Her valued and trusted efforts have affected everyone in the community at some point in time. During this time, she has held the highest standards in regards to financial accountability and transparency, helping the community towards financial strength and continued growth. She volunteered countless hours sharing her knowledge in financial services to many non-profit groups and fundraising activities and enjoyed helping in the community centre kitchen during events and gatherings. Personally, she enjoyed sports and recreational activities, and was instrumental in the development of organized sports in the community. She loved baseball and was a fixture with the Birch Island Ladies ball club, winning several championships while traveling as far as the USA to play tournaments. Sadly, Theresa recently passed to the Spirit World in 2021 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Myles Webkamigad – Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, Anishinabek Lifetime Achievement Award in the Public Service category

Myles Webkamigad has been a lifelong resource and support to his community of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory. Beginning in 1972 he spent 30 years working for his community in various roles from band membership to payroll and eventually settled into the finance department as the Operational Controller of Finance. During this time, he continually took advantage of training and educational opportunities, furthering his knowledge in the accounting field. In 2005, he began a new role with the Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service as the Finance Manager, which he continues to this day. He is described as humble, kind, honest, ambitious with an excellent work ethic. Definitely traits of a great role model within the workplace setting and also throughout the community. [no photo of Myles]

William Swanson Sr. – Michipicoten First Nation, Anishinabek Lifetime Achievement Award in the Public Service category

William Swanson Sr. is a respected Elder in his home community of Michipicoten First Nation and has been an extremely active member in his community for decades. Spending 10 terms as councillor spanning 20 years. He has been an instrumental part of several claim settlements as well as a key member and advisor of several committees and working groups. He has also played a positive role in partnerships outside of the community as well. For those that know him they see him a wonderful example of someone who follows and promotes Anishinaabe Culture and someone who has a connection to the Anishinaabe way of life through family, Elders and Community. In his retirement from a successful career in the mining industry, where he was awarded a gold watch for years of accident-free safety, he spends time fishing, hunting, and trapping in addition to all of his other important roles within the community. [no photo]

Linda Petahtegoose - Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, Anishinabek Lifetime Achievement Award in the Public Service category

Linda Petahtegoose has been dedicated to serving her community of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek since 1972. There are not many individuals who have worked in as many different areas within their community as her. From Band secretary to Band Manager to Economic Development Officer to Director of Planning and Community Development. She has spent more than 30 years accomplishing many important achievements along the way. In addition to sitting on many Boards, some of her work includes overseeing and developing the Shawenekezhik Health Centre, various recreational facilities, infrastructure projects and a number of training programs. She managed the forestry program, prevention program, coordinated a land claim process, developed political and organizational structure, in addition to completing many tasks in the area of finance. Linda also left a fingerprint on a number of projects including the Business Park, Canoe Launch, Day Care, Capital Water Project, Residential Lot Development and the Community Centre. She pioneered several tourism projects including the old Hudson Bay Company post and the Trans Canada Trail in addition to establishing many partnerships along the way. In her spare time, she volunteered her skills to help her community by participating on committees, chaperoning youth, and coordinating fundraising activities as well as gatherings. [no photo]

To view a video of the evening, please visit the Anishinabek Nation YouTube channel.

The AN7GC is committed to improving the quality of life of Anishinabek citizens by providing financial support, where no other funding exists, in the areas of Education, Health, Youth, Elders, Culture, Social, Emergency Crisis and Disaster Relief.

As a self-sufficient charity, the AN7GC relies fully on the success of its fundraising initiatives in order to support its goals and objectives. We raise funds through various fundraising initiatives:

- Annual Anishinabek Evening of Excellence
- Annual Anishinabek Veterans Memorial Golf Tournament
- The Union of Ontario Indians 'Giving at Work' Program
- Private Donations

The funds raised by the AN7GC are disbursed throughout all of the Anishinabek Nation's 39 communities through a 'Grant Program' whereby citizens apply for grants and must meet various criteria to be considered for approval.

The charity provides everyone access to our 'Hotel Discount Program' as well as our partnership with Enterprise Rent-a-Car. Through these programs, citizens are provided with discounts at our partner hotels and on car rentals. A portion of these sales come directly to the AN7GC. For more information on these programs, please visit www.an7gc.ca.



CELEBRATE
Anishinabek Giizhigad
on June 6

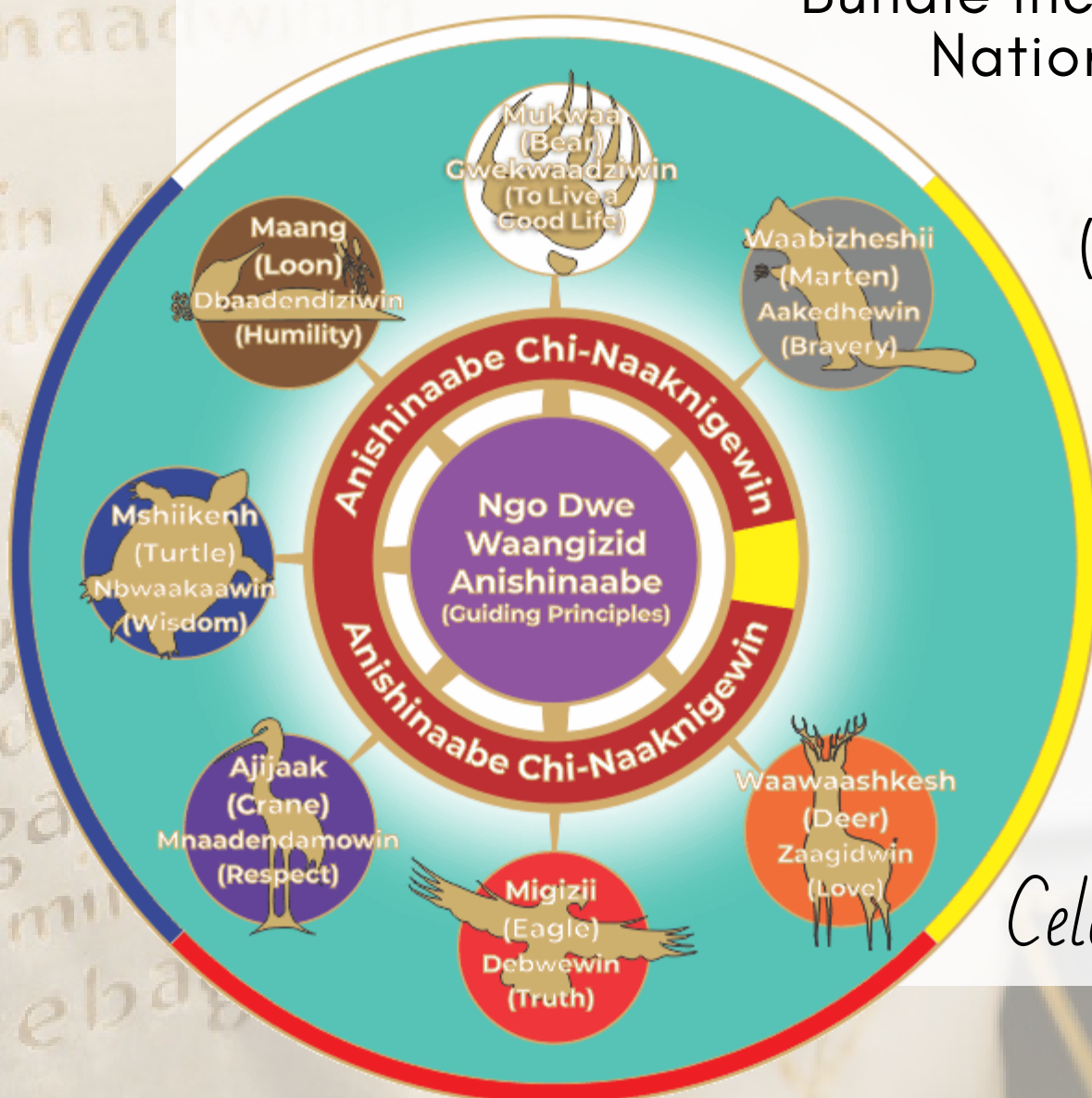
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What is Anishinabek Giizhigad?

Anishinabek Giizhigad celebrates the proclamation of the Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin (Anishinabek Nation Constitution) that took place on June 6, 2012, at the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Assembly.

The Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin was confirmed by Pipe Ceremony and therefore, is a sacred commitment by Anishinabek to live by Anishinaabe Law: Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe (One Anishinaabe Family). This means acquiring Anishinaabemowin (Language) and Anishinaabe Inaadziwin (Culture). These are the source of Nationhood: Unity and Identity. Anishinaabe Aadziwin includes Anishinaabe Governance.

We have everything that we need in our Sacred Bundle including the Anishinabek Nation Eagle Staff (National Flag), Three Fires Confederacy Song (National Anthem), and Seven Sacred Gifts. This is the foundation for Anishinabek and also the way forward: Gwekwaadziwin – To Live A Good Life as instructed by Anishinaabe Elders.



Celebrate being Anishinaabe!



M'Chigeeng First Nation member Helen Crawford was a recent recipient of a quilt, gifted by members of the Quilts for Survivors group. - Photo supplied

M'Chigeeng First Nation citizen receives Quilts for Survivors package

Trigger warning: readers may be triggered by the recount of Indian Residential Schools. To access a 24-hour National Crisis Line, call: 1-866-925-4419. Community Assistance Program (CAP) can be accessed for citizens of the Anishinabek Nation: 1-800-663-1142.

By Sam Laskaris

GORE BAY – A M'Chigeeng First Nation senior is ecstatic with a recent package that arrived in the mail for her.

Helen Crawford, who is 85 and a resident at the Manitoulin Lodge in Gore Bay, is one of the more than 900 recipients thus far of a quilt, courtesy of the Quilts for Survivors group.

The group was started last year by Timmins resident Vanessa Grenier, a Missanabie Cree First Nation member. She was looking to launch a project following news which broke in 2021 that several unmarked children's graves were being located at former Indian Residential School sites across the country.

Grenier decided to start making quilts for Indian Residential School Survivors. She started a Facebook group looking for others to help make quilts.

Almost 4,000 members are now part of the Quilts for Survivors group. Collectively, they have helped create almost 1,000 quilts which have been distributed across North America.

Crawford, who attended one of the Spanish Indian Residential Schools in Spanish, Ont., had her quilt arrive earlier this month.

"Receiving the quilt was a surprise," Crawford said through her daughter Gayle Payette. "I was thrilled to see such a beautiful handmade quilt. I read the letter and the card that came with the quilt and my face lit up."

And where does Crawford plan to keep the quilt?

"The quilt immediately went on my bed to help keep me warm and comfortable," she said.

Though she does have some horrific memories of Residential School, Crawford

said she does occasionally share some stories.

"I don't openly talk about it; however, I do respond when asked questions," she said, adding she witnessed a cousin fall to her death while trying to get away and that other students were not permitted to talk about that incident.

Crawford added that while at the Residential School, she was not allowed to speak Ojibwe or even see her brother, who was also a student there.

"Talking about it is a form of healing for me," she said. "Sharing provides me the opportunity to be open and provides others the opportunity to understand what I endured."

Payette, a teacher at Wikwemikong Junior School, said her family was thrilled her mother received the quilt.

"After the Kamloops discovery of children's graves at a Residential School, I had posted a picture of my mother, saying that this is my survivor," Payette said. "Later that day, I received a message from my friend Barbara Burrows, telling me about Quilts for Survivors and asked if it would be okay if she and her sisters could make a quilt for my mother. Of course, I said, 'Absolutely.'"

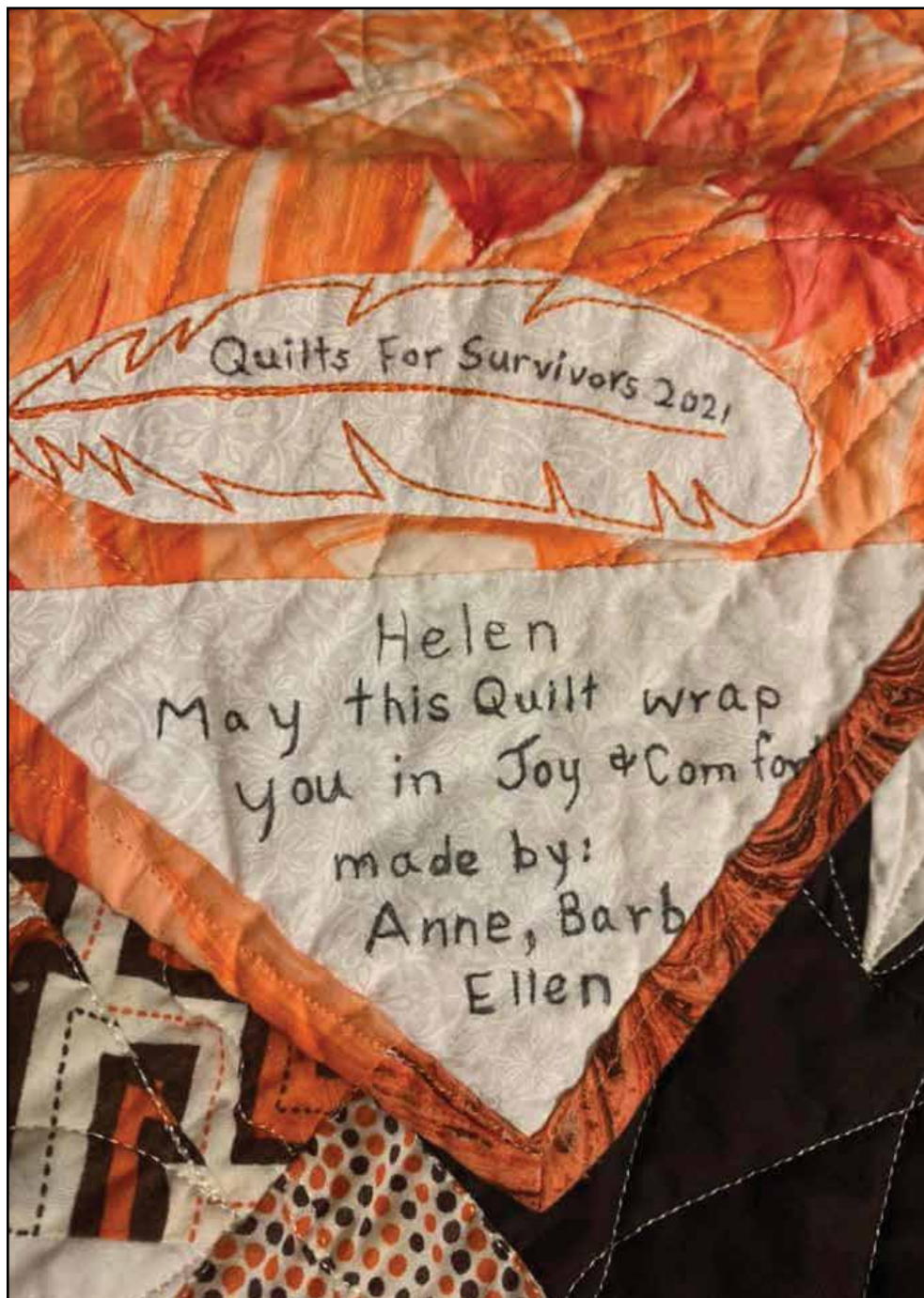
Payette said she was extremely touched by the gesture.

"Receiving the quilt and presenting it to mom was a momentous occasion for me," she added. "I had the opportunity to explain to mom that other people are thinking of her and care for her. This quilt is a symbol of love and compassion."

Payette also said she has been in touch with Grenier and the three women who helped create her mother's quilt in order to express the family's gratitude.

The Quilt for Survivors group has its own website which can be viewed here: <https://www.quiltsforsurvivors.ca/>

Besides looking for new members, the group accepts monetary donations as well as donations of quilt blocks or entire quilts, which will in turn be gifted to residential school survivors.



YOU ARE NOT ALONE - GAAWIIN NCHKE GDA'AASII

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INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SURVIVORS AND FAMILY HOTLINE:
1-866-925-4419

CRISIS SERVICES CANADA: 1-833-456-4566 OR TEXT 45645

FIRST NATIONS AND INUIT HOPE FOR WELLNESS HELP LINE:
1-855-242-3310

NATIVE YOUTH CRISIS HOTLINE: 1-877-209-1266 - ONTARIO

TALK 4 HEALING: 1-855-554-HEAL (4325) (INDIGENOUS WOMEN SPECIFIC)

MENTAL HEALTH HELPLINE: 1-866-531-2600

CULTURE FOR LIFE: (ONLINE) WWW.CULTUREFORLIFE.CA

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH AUTHORITY: HTTPS://WWW.FNHA.CA/WELLNESS

NAN HOPE: 1-844-NAN-HOPE (626-4673)

MMIWG CRISIS LINE: 1-844-413-6649

EVERY CHILD MATTERS
ENSA BEBEZHIG GCHI-PIITENDAAGOZI BINOOJIIH

Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn's Jamie Sarazin recognized for volunteer efforts

By Rick Garrick

ALGONQUINS OF PIKWÀKANAGÀN FIRST NATION — The Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation's Jamie Sarazin was recently recognized with a 2021 June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award for Voluntarism for her volunteer efforts with the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation Traditional Pow Wow Committee.

"It's hard to come up with adequate words to describe how much we appreciate Jamie Sarazin for her 33 years of volunteering to support the community's Traditional Pow Wow," says Pikwàkanagàn Chief Wendy Jocko. "Even though she was not in the spotlight, she was the backbone of each and every event. We could not do this without Jamie's hard work. We are forever thankful for the time she has given us and made an unforgettable difference to the entire community and beyond."

Sarazin was one of 15 individuals and eight volunteer organizations that were recognized with the June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award for Voluntarism on

Feb. 3.

"The way she inspires everyone with her volunteer work proves that she is a complete natural," Jocko says. "We thank Jamie for her energy and passion she put into the annual Traditional Pow Wow. She is a remarkable human being with a big heart for others. You rarely meet a person like Jamie who is so selfless and devoted, and the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation is honoured to have her on our volunteers' team."

Sarazin says she was "very surprised and speechless" when she was notified that she was being recognized with the award about a week before the award presentation.

"It's pretty special — I feel very honoured and appreciated," Sarazin says, noting that many people sent her messages of congratulations, including that her award was well deserved. "I got a congratulations from our Chief Wendy Jocko and then she called me on my cell phone and congratulated me."

Sarazin says she and her late husband



Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn's Jamie Sarazin was recognized with a 2021 June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award for Voluntarism for her volunteer efforts with the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation Traditional Pow Wow Committee on Feb. 3.

Kevin Sarazin first volunteered to help bring the Traditional Pow Wow back to the community, and then she volunteered as a gate person at the beginning before taking on a leadership role as the assistant coordinator about 22 years ago.

"I have been the coordinator for about the last eight years," Sarazin says. "The last coordinator was Jane Commanda, she did the coordination for about 25 years and I helped her."

When the Traditional Pow Wow was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Sarazin stepped up to bring the community together in a safe way by organizing a community feast with the moose meat that had been harvested the previous fall for the Traditional Pow Wow feast.

"When we cut up the moose, we had it all ready for roasts," Sarazin says. "Once we realized we were going to have to cancel because of the pandemic, we thought: 'What are we going to do with that moose? We can't let it sit for another year.' So we decided we were going to do a feast to go

for the community."

Sarazin says some people helped to cook the feast and the hunters served the food in 2020.

"They wore their masks and they had it like a drive-thru, so they were serving the food to go for people," Sarazin says. "We served 230 feast plates."

Sarazin says they had a small Pow Wow in 2021 with people from the community once they were allowed to gather by the pandemic committee.

"We did our feast the same way and people came and took their meals to go as well," Sarazin says. "We did it on Labour Day weekend instead of our traditional third weekend in August. And we served 200 feast plates."

The June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award for Voluntarism recognizes the leadership, innovation and creativity of individual volunteers, volunteer administrators and volunteer organizations who support communities across Ontario.



IPREP

(Indigenous Poverty Reduction Education Program)

A college pathway support program in partnership with First Nation Ontario Works offices.

Ontario Works and ODSP Clients:

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Eligibility

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For more information please contact:

Sunday Bear, IPREP Lead

705.474.7600 ext. 5548

cell: 705.303.3559

sunday.bear@canadorecollege.ca

Marissa Gillies-Linklater, IPREP Navigator

705.474.7600 ext. 5967

cell: 705.471.6603

marissa.gillieslinklater@canadorecollege.ca



For more information, talk to your Ontario Works staff for an application and referral to the program.



canadorecollege.ca/iprep

We Need You!

Looking For Health Transformation Working Group Members



The Anishinabek Nation Health Secretariat is moving forward with a Health Transformation Initiative as directed by the Anishinabek Nation Chiefs-in-Assembly. We are searching for one to two representatives from each community for our Working Group.

This Working Group will comprise of members with various backgrounds and expertise who will assist our First Nations in building a Health Transformation System that will optimize the health care needs of its citizens.

We are looking for Anishinabek Nation members with direct experience in health and/or First Nation finance.

If interested, please email your First Nation's Chief and Council or Health Director or email Lisa Restoule-Brazier at Lisa.restoule@anishinabek.ca

Tony H. Jocko Memorial Heroes in Health awarded to five deserving individuals



ANISHINABEK NATION TERRITORY – Five awards in health were presented on Day Two of the seventh annual Anishinabek Nation Health Conference: We’eni Masaadan Gibimaadziwin — Journey Well as you Walk your Life.

On Jan. 19, the Tony H. Jocko Memorial Heroes in Health Awards were given to five deserving people this year. The award is named after a dedicated and devoted person who worked tirelessly for the Anishinabek Nation since 2006 as a Federal Health Policy Analyst.

Tony Jocko was one of those individuals that was admired by all who worked with him. He had a wonderful sense of humour and he was kind and compassionate when helping others. While he may have worked as a policy analyst, he also contributed to Cancer Care Ontario. He supported and advocated for citizens in the areas of dental and vision care, and contributed to work on addictions. When the COVID-19 pandemic started, Tony-baa quickly stepped in to provide the extra work and assistance to support Anishinabek Nation First Nations.

“He will certainly be missed by many and by honouring his memory and his work, today his legacy will carry on through the recognition of individuals who also are dedicated to helping all those within the Anishinabek Nation territory,” said Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe.

Karen Jocko, Tony-baa’s wife, was in attendance as a very special guest and shared some heartfelt remarks.

“Tony would be honoured and humble to be part of this recognition,” she expressed. “He always said that all he was doing was helping people, and I’m sure this is what all of the folks who were recognized wish for as well.”

Roger Beaudin – Health Department Manager, M’Chigeeng Health Centre

Roger was nominated by Sam Gilchrist, Executive Director, Gwekwaadziwin Miikan. She says of Roger: He has been a mentor and given me invaluable advice that has helped shaped my career in the healthcare field. I have seen Mr. Beaudin work tirelessly to build, promote, and deliver services for M’Chigeeng First Nation. Beyond the scope of M’Chigeeng, Roger has made contributions on board of directors for various organizations and has helped with his guidance of child welfare and mental health and addictions agencies. During this pandemic, Roger once again rose to the occasion and was able to help his



Yvonne Banning
Fort William First Nation



Agnes Rissanen
Red Rock Indian Band



Debby Roach
Garden River First Nation



Elaine Johnston
Serpent River First Nation



Roger Beaudin
M’Chigeeng First Nation

2022 Tony H. Jocko Memorial Heroes in Health Award Winners

Congratulations to all of the award winners for excellence in health!

community and many other organizations institute infection prevention and control measures as well as testing and vaccinations.

Debby Roach – Nurse Practitioner, Garden River First Nation

Debby was nominated by Nadine Roach, Gloria Daybutch, and Elizabeth Edgar-Webkamigad.

Debby graduated from Sault College in 1990 with her diploma in Nursing and moved directly into working for the next two years at Plummer Memorial Hospital. This all while having her two beautiful daughters and working as a single mom. She moved on to the Maamwesying North Shore Tribal Council and spent much of her own personal time travelling to our communities on the west end including Sagamok Anishnawbek to ensure health services were delivered. It was here that Debby fostered long lasting friendships and relations with the people of Sagamok Anishnawbek.

Debby returned to Laurentian University to obtain her Bachelor of Science degree. The Nurse Practitioner professional designation was being offered for the first time in Ontario and she rose to the occasion, being the first self-identified First Nation student and graduate.

Debby has contributed to many committees with her experience and intelligence, having the gift of explaining

complex or often delicate topics in layman’s terms to her audience.

Today, Debby serves her people in her own community of Garden River First Nation. Living in your community as a regulated medical practitioner often means constant community exposure to your work and personal life. With all these expectations to manage and governing bodies to adhere to, it takes a special person to practice and live within your own community. Debby is that person. She performs her job with dedication, competence, confidence and most importantly, love for her community and families. Debby knows first-hand of the historical disadvantages faced by her community and its impact on the families. She takes all this into account when assessing, diagnosing, and treating her community clients.

Elaine Johnston Waawassgonehkwe, Turtle Clan – Serpent River First Nation

Holly Johnston said that she nominated her sister Elaine for this particular award for many reasons. She says of Elaine:

As the eldest of 11 girls in our family, Elaine is my personal hero for demonstrating her commitment, strength and passion while serving our people throughout Turtle Island. Elaine has dedicated her life to serving our people for over 40 years. Early in her career as a Registered Nurse by profession,

Elaine worked alongside Tony Jocko many, many moons ago in Ambulance – Emergency Transportation and Air Ambulance. In fact, Elaine was the first nurse to provide medical care in a Sudbury Air Ambulance.

In addition to providing primary care, Elaine provided leadership as a Serpent River First Nation Council member for 10 years and Chief of Serpent River First Nation for four. During her term, Elaine was instrumental in lifting the Boil Water Advisory with the implementation of a water treatment plant. She was a strong advocate for Health and Social issues.

Elaine also steered COVID-19 protocols and implemented policies in her capacity as Health Director when the pandemic first began. Elaine’s current role with Nogdawindamin Family and Community Services, provides advocacy, supervision and support for children and adults accessing Mental Health services and resources using a cultural lens to bridge traditional services with western practices when required. Elaine also remains an active member of the hospital board in Elliot Lake where many Indigenous people attend, where she is creating partnerships and ensuring dialogue includes and benefits our people.

Elaine’s Spirit Name: Waawassgonehkwe (Flower

Woman) was given by our great-grandmother before Elaine was born and it describes her lifelong passion and commitment. Elaine plants the seeds for new growth to emerge anew like a beautiful flower that is nourished by creation. Elaine’s life fully encompasses her relationship with Creator and all creation to yield positive changes for our people. Elaine’s Turtle Clan ensures she is strengthened to carry the weight of responsibilities as she continues working for and with our people.

Yvonne Banning and Agnes Rissanen – Dilico Anishinabek Family Care

Yvonne and Agnes were nominated by Lynda Banning, Anishinabek Nation FASD Regional Program Worker for Northern Superior.

I would like to nominate my daughter Yvonne Banning and her co-worker Agnes Rissanen. Both are Community Health Nurses working at Dilico Anishinabek Family Care. They were trained to prepare and administer the COVID-19 vaccines. They travelled extensively in this area running very well received vaccine clinics. During the stressful points in the pandemic when communities were working to get our members vaccinated, these ladies gave up personal time to carry out this important task.

NOW BOOKING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS



The Anishinabek Nation Health Secretariat is looking for input on advancing Health Transformation for our 39 First Nations.

As citizens of the Anishinabek Nation, we all want to have a say and be aware of what is going on when it comes to change. Here is the opportunity to have your say on creating a Health System that you can be proud of.

The Health Transformation Team is booking Engagement Sessions with each community (Chief and Council, Health Team, and citizens) to discuss Health Transformation and what that means to you. We will gauge your interest and seek your direction on the best way we can move forward in this process.

If interested, please contact Lisa Restoule-Brazier at lisa.restoule@anishinabek.ca for more information

GET REAL ABOUT DRUGS AND ALCOHOL.

- There's no safe level of alcohol use for teenagers.
- Cigarettes and other drugs like cannabis and cocaine are not safe at any age.
- Signs that teenagers might be using alcohol or other drugs are changes in mood, behaviour, sleeping habits or hygiene.
- If you think teenagers are using alcohol or other drugs, talking is the first step.
- It's also important to supervise teenagers' use of and exposure to alcohol and other drugs.
- You can get help and support from your family and other health professionals.

KIDS HELP PHONE
1-800-668-6868

TALK4HEALING
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HOPE FOR WELLNESS
1-855-242-3310

**WITNESS AN OVERDOSE
DON'T BE AFRAID
TO CALL 911**

GOOD TO TALK
1-866-925-5454



Follow us!



www.anishinabek.ca

Information provided by the
Health Secretariat
Anishinabek Nation



ANISHINABEK NATION GIIZISOO MZINIGAN

WORD SEARCH

a	i	n	b	a	t	v	e	k	p	q	r	a	a	j	z	r	p
n	a	h	n	i	w	h	e	d	k	a	a	e	w	h	o	d	i
y	v	n	c	o	i	w	g	k	s	n	a	g	q	l	o	i	f
i	k	a	e	o	e	y	w	r	i	e	m	p	w	f	g	q	d
u	r	a	b	b	o	c	e	i	l	w	b	k	x	l	p	e	g
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z	s	i	g	e	z	n	n	g	e	z	q	e	w	t	l	p	a
b	k	a	t	p	a	s	w	d	p	m	i	k	i	q	f	d	u

FIND THE TRANSLATED PHRASE:

For assistance refer to online resource: [Flipbooks/Giizisoo Mzinigan2022](https://flipbooks/giizisoo-mzinigan2022)

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| I am tired. | S/he is helping. | Cover it. | Find it. |
| It's snowing. | Speak (talk) | Say it. | Make it. |
| Here. | Let's listen to him/her. | It's a sunny day. | Bravery |
| Let's go outside. | Be brave! | Hurry | I'm afraid. |
| Help me. | Okay | That is my father. | Wait. Take it slow. |
| Way to go! | Hello | Ask him. | Move/Push over. |
| Let's go now enh. | Ask him. | Come here. | |

The first 20 to submit a completed word search wins a prize. DEADLINE March 11th 4:00 pm
 Send to goupri@anishinabek.ca



Artwork cover page on Giizisoo Mzinigan is titled: **“Noos ndi-kinoomaag-naa” “My Father Teaches Us”**

By Zoey Wood-Salomon, Odawa, Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory

My father has kept his language all these years. He is now teaching us his children, how to speak Anishinabemowin.

It is a very descriptive language and comes straight from our hearts.

OUR LANGUAGE IS OUR STRENGTH.



CANADIAN COAST GUARD CENTRAL REGION

Recruitment Information

The Canadian Coast Guard works to ensure the safety of mariners in Canadian waters, protects the marine environment, and provides key maritime services to Canadians.



Seagoing & Shore-Based Positions:

- [Ship's Cook](#)
- [Deckhand](#)
- [Engineering Officer](#)
- [Navigation Officer](#)
- [Engine Room Assistant](#)
- [Steward](#)
- [Marine Communications and Traffic Services Officer](#)
- And many more!



Canadian Coast Guard College:

- [Officer Training Program](#)
(Marine Navigation & Marine Engineering)
- [Marine Communications & Traffic Services Training](#)

Benefits include: Paid education, accommodations and meals, dental/medical coverage, guaranteed job upon graduation, and more!



Student Opportunities:

- [Inshore Rescue Boat Service](#)
- [Indigenous Student Employment Opportunity](#)
- [Looking for a job after graduation? Student Bridging Portal](#)
- [Federal Student Work Experience Program](#)



For more information, please contact the Indigenous Relations & Partnerships team, Central Region:

DFO.CCGCAIRP-RPACAGCC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca





*Presented by the
Anishinabek Nation Health Secretariat*



SAVE THE DATE

8th Annual **Anishinabek Nation Health Conference**

JANUARY 17, 18, 19, 2023

Aaniin, Boozhoo, Welcome back!

We hope everyone is well and we look forward to seeing each of you in 2023 as we anticipate the opportunity to be able to gather in-person once again.

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

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

Until we meet again, keep up the all your good work and remember, all that you do is special.

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