



ANISHINABEK NATION

# **FALL GRAND COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**

*Sovereign Lands & Waters*

2023 Resolutions Package



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# Ajijaak Doodem

## POLITICAL

Debaachigaadeg	Subject:	Grand Council Elections
E-gaandinang	Mover:	Chief Chris Plain, Aamjiwnaang First Nation
E-ko-niizhing e-gaadinang	Seconder:	Chief Scott McLeod, Nipissing First Nation
Be-minideg	Status:	Carried
Nendowendizig	Opposed:	None
Gegoo e-kidsig	Abstentions:	None

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**MAANOO-DA-KIDOOMGAD - LET IT BE SAID:**

1. The Creator gave the Anishinaabe the inherent right to govern themselves as nations of people;
2. In the interest of good governance, the Anishinabek Nation has the duty to ensure a fair, transparent and accountable elections process to uphold the integrity of the selection of the Grand Council Leadership positions as set out in the *"Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Rules of Procedure"*;
3. The Anishinabek Nation has been conducting traditional stand-up elections for the Grand Council Leadership positions since 2006;
4. Within the context of the global COVID-19 Pandemic, it was not possible to safely gather the Anishinabek Nation leaders to conduct a traditional stand-up election for the 2021 election;
5. The 2021 Grand Council Elections, through the approval of the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Assembly, were completed through an online (Zoom) platform to accommodate restrictions that did not allow for gatherings such as the Grand Council Assembly to take place in-person; and
6. The global COVID-19 Pandemic gathering restrictions are no longer in force and as a result, the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Assembly elections in 2024 and beyond can return to a fully in-person format to ensure the integrity of Anishinabek Nation traditions.

**Anishinabek Gimaag-Maawnjidiwaad  
Aamjiwnaang First Nation  
Bnaakwii Giizis 24-25, 2023**

**BIGIDNAMOG DASH GIINWI ANISHINAABE GIMAAG-MAAWANJIDIWAAD:**

**LET IT BE ACTED UPON, THAT WE, THE ANISHINABEK CHIEFS-IN-ASSEMBLY:**

1. Direct that traditional stand-up elections for Grand Council Leadership positions be conducted fully in-person in 2024 and beyond to ensure the integrity of Anishinabek Nation traditions; and
2. Direct that, for the purposes of the traditional stand-up elections for the Grand Council Leadership positions, no online (Zoom, etc.) voting will be permitted in 2024 and beyond to ensure the integrity of Anishinabek Nation traditions.



Reginald Niganobe Kaawingai  
Grand Council Chief



Chris Plain  
Southwest Deputy Grand Council Chief



# **Migizii Doodem**

**EDUCATION & LABOUR  
MARKET DEVELOPMENT**

Debaachigaadeg	Subject:	Anishinabek Nation Access to Indigenous Service Canada Education Data to Monitor and Advocate for Anishinabek Funding under the Interim Funding Formula
E-gaandinang	Mover:	Chief Ted Williams, Chippewas of Rama First Nation
E-ko-niizhing e-gaadinang	Seconder:	Chief Keith Knott, Curve Lake First Nation
Be-minideg	Status:	Carried
Nendowendizig	Opposed:	None
Gegoo e-kidsig	Abstentions:	None

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**MAANOO-DA-KIDOOMGAD - LET IT BE SAID:**

1. The Anishinabek Nation Education Secretariat is responsible for assisting with political advocacy in the area of education, and to support First Nation learners on their lifelong learning journeys. The Education Secretariat provides analysis and recommendations on issues such as early childhood education, elementary, secondary, special education, and post-secondary education, and is committed to monitoring and analyzing any policy and legislative proposals that come from both the provincial and federal governments of Canada;
2. The 2018 Federal Memorandum to Cabinet on education funding implemented an Interim Funding Approach (IFA) for 2019/2020. The IFA uses the provincial funding model as a base for allocation, creating a more formulaic approach for First Nations core education funding. This includes funding for second level services;
3. The IFA applies to the fifteen (15) Anishinabek First Nations who are not signatory to the Anishinabek Education System (AES);
4. The *Chiefs of Ontario* (COO) Resolution 51-18 mandates the Ontario Technical Table on the Interim Funding Approach (OTTIFA) to examine the components of the IFA and provide recommendations for enhancements and adaptations to better meet the needs of First Nation learners, schools and communities. On behalf of the 15 Anishinabek First Nations, the Education Secretariat is the technical representative on OTTIFA;
5. The COO Leadership Council MOTION #2022-07-19.5 mandated the Chiefs and Technical Committee on Language and Learning (CTCLL) to provide technical and political advice, recommendations and strategies to the Ontario Regional Chief, the COO Leadership Council and the Chiefs-in-Assembly on all matters related to First Nations languages and learning. On behalf of all thirty-nine (39) Anishinabek First Nations, the Education Secretariat is the technical representative on CTCLL. OTTIFA recommendations are reviewed at the CTCLL prior to submission to the COO Leadership Council for decision;



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6. Information and data sharing is vital to staying informed of developments and making fact-based decisions. Indigenous Service Canada (ISC) Ontario region does not share essential information and data with Anishinabek Nation to engage member Nations, collect sufficient feedback, and advise at the various education committees including OTTIFA;
7. On July 21, 2023, AN Southeast Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief James Marsden, sent a letter to ISC Regional Director General Michael O'Byrne on the ISC Ontario region capacity issues for education. ISC has failed to effectively communicate the ongoing formula changes to Anishinabek First Nations as well as the individual community impacts. For example the 2023/24 changes to funding protection; and
8. The Anishinabek Nation would never support an OTTIFA recommendation decrease in First Nation and Second Level education funding as we recognize that our member First Nations are already underfunded, therefore any decrease is detrimental to Anishinabek learners, Education Departments, and the continuation of services. First Nations education funding under the IFA, at minimum, must be sufficient, predictable, and sustainable.

**BIGIDNAMOG DASH GIINWI ANISHINAABE GIMAAG-MAAWANJIDIWAAD:**

**LET IT BE ACTED UPON, THAT WE, THE ANISHINABEK CHIEFS-IN-ASSEMBLY:**

1. Direct the Anishinabek Nation Education Secretariat to continue participation on the OTTIFA as the technical representative;
2. Direct the Anishinabek Nation Education Secretariat to strengthen the information sharing between OTTIFA and First Nations by coordinating two (2) meetings/annually for the 15 Anishinabek First Nations that are not part of the AES;
3. Call for the disclosure of and access to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) Anishinabek education data for the Anishinabek Nation Education Secretariat for the purposes of monitoring and advocating for Anishinabek Nation funding needs within the IFA; and
4. Direct the Anishinabek Nation to report to the Chiefs-in-Assembly on progress on access to ISC education data at the 2024 Summer Grand Council Assembly.



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Reginald Niganobe Kaawingai  
Grand Council Chief



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Chris Plain  
Southwest Deputy Grand Council Chief



# **Waawaashkesh Doodem**

**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**KOGANAAWSAWIN**

**NAAKINIGAN – #2023-21**

<b>Debaachigaadeg</b>	<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Prevention-Focused Customary Care Program</b>
<b>E-gaandinang</b>	<b>Mover:</b>	Chief Scott McLeod, Nipissing First Nation
<b>E-ko-niizhing e-gaandinang</b>	<b>Seconders:</b>	Chief Roger Thomas, Munsee-Delaware Nation
<b>Be-minideg</b>	<b>Status:</b>	Carried
<b>Nendowendizig</b>	<b>Opposed:</b>	None
<b>Gegoo e-kidsig</b>	<b>Abstentions:</b>	None

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**MAANOO-DA-KIDOOMGAD - LET IT BE SAID:**

1. The Prevention-Focused Customary Care (PFCC) Program is vital to safeguard the well-being of Anishinabek children and youth;
2. The PFCC Program provides critical services, support and guidance to prevent neglect and abuse;
3. The effectiveness and success of the PFCC Program is dependent on adequate funding; and
4. Securing additional funding for the PFCC Program is essential to enhance its outreach and expand its services – creating safe and nurturing environments for Anishinabek children and youth.

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Aamjiwnaang First Nation  
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**BIGIDNAMOG DASH GIINWI ANISHINAABE GIMAAG-MAAWANJIDIWAAD:**

**LET IT BE ACTED UPON, THAT WE, THE ANISHINABEK CHIEFS-IN-ASSEMBLY:**

1. Call upon the provincial Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) to increase their investment in the Anishinabek Nation's Prevention-Focused Customary Care Program; and
2. Support the Anishinabek Nation and its Social Development Department in their advocacy efforts to secure additional funding for the Prevention-Focused Customary Care Program.



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Reginald Niganobe Kaawingai  
Grand Council Chief



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Chris Plain  
Southwest Deputy Grand Council Chief



<b>Debaachigaadeg</b>	<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Support and Endorsement of the Jury Recommendations from the Coroner's Inquest into the Death of Devon Freeman</b>
<b>E-gaandinang</b>	<b>Mover:</b>	Chief Donna Big Canoe, Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation
<b>E-ko-niizhing e-gaadinang</b>	<b>Seconder:</b>	Chief Joe Miskokomon, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
<b>Be-minideg</b>	<b>Status:</b>	Carried
<b>Nendowendizig</b>	<b>Opposed:</b>	None
<b>Gegoo e-kidsig</b>	<b>Abstentions:</b>	None

#### MAANOO-DA-KIDOOMGAD - LET IT BE SAID:

1. Devon Freeman (Muska'abo), a youth from Chippewas of Georgina Island, died by suicide on April 12, 2018 while receiving services under the *Child, Youth, and Family Services Act*, 2017 (CYFSA), from the Children's Aid Society (CAS) of Hamilton, Lynwood Charlton Centre, the Hamilton Police Services, and the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS);
2. At the insistence of Devon's family and his community, a coroner's inquest was undertaken in the fall of 2022. The inquest explored the circumstances of Devon's life and death, and considered ways to prevent future deaths in similar circumstances;
3. The Chief Coroner of Ontario provided the verdict of the inquest which included 75 recommendations to the various institutional parties (i.e. Chippewas of Georgina Island, Children's Aid Society of Hamilton, Lynwood Charlton Centre, Hamilton Police Services, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, Ministry of Health, the Office of the Chief Coroner, Government of Canada, and the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police;
4. Recommendation #59 states: "That the MCCSS and all institutional parties to the inquest work together in a collaborative manner towards ensuring that First Nations children have the right to return to their home communities when receiving services under the CYFSA. This should be adopted and developed as "Devon's Principle."; and
5. Recommendation #60 states: "Provide direct, sustainable, equitable, and adequate joint funding from the named Ministries and Government of Canada to First Nations, off-reserve Indigenous service providers, and non-Indigenous service providers serving off-reserve First Nations children, youth and families to increase capacity for collaboration in the provision of child welfare and mental health services."

**BIGIDNAMOG DASH GIINWI ANISHINAABE GIMAAG-MAAWANJIDIWAAD:**

**LET IT BE ACTED UPON, THAT WE, THE ANISHINABEK CHIEFS-IN-ASSEMBLY:**

1. Support and endorse all 75 recommendations from the Coroner's Inquest into the Death of Devon Freeman (Muska'abo);
2. Call upon the Government of Canada, Government of Ontario, Children's Aid Society of Hamilton, Lynwood Charlton Centre, Hamilton Police Services, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, Ministry of Health, the Office of the Chief Coroner, and the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police to implement all 75 recommendations from the Coroner's Inquest into the Death of Devon Freeman (Muska'abo); and
3. Direct the Anishinabek Nation Social Development Department and Koganaawsawin, the central coordinating body of the Anishinabek Child, Youth, and Family Well-Being System, to lead collaboration with the various Anishinabek Nation departments towards securing funding to develop an Anishinabek Nation strategy for political advocacy for the implementation of the inquest recommendations.



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Reginald Niganobe Kaawingai  
Grand Council Chief



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Chris Plain  
Southwest Deputy Grand Council Chief



# Giigoonh Doodem

## LANDS & RESOURCES

Debaachigaadeg	Subject:	Emergency Response and Preparedness for Wildland and Forest Fire Management
E-gaandinang	Mover:	Chief Marcus Hardy, Red Rock Indian Band
E-ko-niizhing e-gaadinang	Seconder:	Chief Keith Knott, Curve Lake First Nation
Be-minideg	Status:	Carried
Nendowendizig	Opposed:	None
Gegoo e-kidsig	Abstentions:	None

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**MAANOO-DA-KIDOOMGAD - LET IT BE SAID:**

1. Wildland fires are becoming more common and more extreme. The long-range forecasts for warm temperatures and ongoing drought are affecting parts of Canada and intensifying in some provinces;
2. First Nations are self-determined, have sovereignty, and have a history of managing their traditional forest lands through prescribed burning. Governments are seeking innovative ways for wildland and forest fire risk reduction and seeking First Nation traditional knowledge or ways of knowing;
3. Climate change is anticipated to cause greater climatic variability and extreme weather patterns, resulting in longer fire seasons, increasing the number of wildland fires and amplifying the effects of wildland fires, particularly in regions where fire has not been historically prominent or suppressed long-term; and
4. Both the federal and provincial governments are focusing on providing support, achieving a better understanding of the needs and barriers, and providing opportunities for First Nations in support of and in response to wildland and forest fires.

**BIGIDNAMOG DASH GIINWI ANISHINAABE GIMAAG-MAAWANJIDIWAAD:**

**LET IT BE ACTED UPON, THAT WE, THE ANISHINABEK CHIEFS-IN-ASSEMBLY:**

1. Direct the Anishinabek Nation to seek resources, capacity and funds to support education and outreach, knowledge transfer, accredited training opportunities, fire-smart workshops, community wildfire protection plans, etc.; and



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Aamjiwnaang First Nation  
Bnaakwii Giizis 24-25, 2023**

2. Support the Lands & Resources Department to build on meaningful relationships with both the federal and provincial governments to better understand the wildland / forest fire landscapes and to potentially lead a First Nation Wildland / Forest Fire management process.



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Reginald Niganobe Kaawingai  
Grand Council Chief



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Chris Plain  
Southwest Deputy Grand Council Chief



<b>Debaachigaadeg</b>	<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Anishinabek Nation Climate Change Strategy</b>
<b>E-gaandinang</b>	<b>Mover:</b>	Chief Chris Plain, Aamjiwnaang First Nation
<b>E-ko-niizhing e-gaadinang</b>	<b>Seconder:</b>	Chief Ted Williams, Chippewas of Rama First Nation
<b>Be-minideg</b>	<b>Status:</b>	Carried
<b>Nendowendizig</b>	<b>Opposed:</b>	None
<b>Gegoo e-kidsig</b>	<b>Abstentions:</b>	None

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**MAANOO-DA-KIDOOMGAD - LET IT BE SAID:**

1. The waters and lands of the Great Lakes Basin are a product of past climates. The Anishinabek Nation is located within the Great Lakes Basin where climate change has been occurring most dramatically over the past 20 years, with an increase in air temperature, precipitation, and an increase in water levels and temperatures within the Great Lakes themselves;
2. Climate change and adaptation is not a new concept to First Nations that live around the Great Lakes. Throughout our history our people have lived along the lakes, rivers and shorelines. Our culture and traditions have helped us to learn and adapt to our environment and we continue to develop our knowledge of the Great Lakes and its basin. We continue to use our knowledge to prepare for the changing environment driven by a dynamic and transforming climate;
3. Our Anishinaabe vision is where all Creation is in the natural balance where all of us value the gifts of Mother Earth and act in a manner that is sustainable, and no longer threatened by human impacts. A climate change strategy can help guide climate responses while also communicating to governments and partners of Anishinabek First Nation priority areas;
4. This will, in turn, remind governments and partners that successful climate action is possible only when co-created with the Anishinabek First Nations in ways that protect and strengthen Title, Rights, and jurisdiction; and when Indigenous Knowledge and unique connections to territories and treaty areas are respectfully acknowledged and thoroughly incorporated in all aspects of climate planning and action; and
5. Many new innovative models exist that Anishinabek Nation communities can benefit from by helping them to understand climate change and providing them with technical support, expertise, tools and resources. One such model created by Natural Capital based at Stanford University can determine the carbon storage potential of each First Nation.

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Aamjiwnaang First Nation  
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**BIGIDNAMOG DASH GIINWI ANISHINAABE GIMAAG-MAAWANJIDIWAAD:**

**LET IT BE ACTED UPON, THAT WE, THE ANISHINABEK CHIEFS-IN-ASSEMBLY:**

1. Direct the Lands & Resources Department to develop an Anishinabek Nation Climate Change Strategy that includes potential carbon storage for each First Nation using the InVEST carbon model developed by Natural Capital; and
2. Direct the Lands & Resources Department to report back with findings and results at the 2024 Grand Council Assembly.



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Reginald Niganobe Kaawingai  
Grand Council Chief



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Chris Plain  
Southwest Deputy Grand Council Chief



# **Mukwaa Doodem**

**HEALTH & MENTAL HEALTH**



Debaachigaadeg	Subject:	Advocacy Against the Privatization of Healthcare in Ontario
E-gaandinang	Mover:	Gimaa Gerry Duquette, Dokis First Nation
E-ko-niizhing e-gaadinang	Seconder:	Chief Ted Williams, Chippewas of Rama First Nation
Be-minideg	Status:	Carried
Nendowendizig	Opposed:	None
Gegoo e-kidsig	Abstentions:	None

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**MAANOO-DA-KIDOOMGAD - LET IT BE SAID:**

1. The Conservative Government has introduced the privatization of select health care services and primary care under the pretense of reducing waitlists and alleviating under-resourced hospitals. There are existing risks associated with the indication that further services and care will be privatized, potentially impacting universal access for all Ontarians;
2. Underinvestment in healthcare prior to the pandemic was prevalent and minimal effort has been forth to strengthen the system after the fallout that resulted from the chronic underfunding. Health human resources are at detrimentally low levels within the public health sector, privatization is jeopardizing an already understaffed system that millions of people rely on;
3. First Nations face unique challenges in regards to accessing adequate and culturally safe healthcare. Socioeconomic factors of First Nation citizens must be kept in mind in regards to how this will impact their access. Ontario has a fiduciary responsibility, as a Treaty partner representing the Crown, to ensure Treaty obligations are met, including protecting our right to equitable healthcare; and
4. The gradual privatization carries a high risk of impacting our own efforts to implement Anishinaabe-led health transformative and long-term strategies to improve our goals of improving healthcare access and quality of care.

**BIGIDNAMOG DASH GIINWI ANISHINAABE GIMAAG-MAAWANJIDIWAAD:**

**LET IT BE ACTED UPON, THAT WE, THE ANISHINABEK CHIEFS-IN-ASSEMBLY:**

1. Direct the Anishinabek Nation Health Secretariat to conduct research on the potential impacts of healthcare privatization and how it will impact our existing Long-Term Healing Strategy efforts and the need for Health Transformation;

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Aamjiwnaang First Nation  
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2. Direct the Anishinabek Nation Health Secretariat to report on research into the potential impacts of healthcare privatization at the 2024 Grand Council Assembly;
3. Direct the Grand Council Chief to advocate against the privatization of healthcare and implement proactive advocacy approaches to oppose any further privatization; and
4. Direct the Grand Council Chief to advocate and promote investment from Ontario in the area of health human resources, including education, training and recruitment.



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Reginald Niganobe Kaawingai  
Grand Council Chief



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Chris Plain  
Southwest Deputy Grand Council Chief

Debaachigaadeg	Subject:	Supporting Measures Against Racism in Ontario's Healthcare System
E-gaandinang	Mover:	Gimaa Gerry Duquette, Dokis First Nation
E-ko-niizhing e-gaadinang	Seconder:	Chief Roger Thomas, Munsee-Delaware Nation
Be-minideg	Status:	Carried
Nendowendizig	Opposed:	None
Gegoo e-kidsig	Abstentions:	None

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**MAANOO-DA-KIDOOMGAD - LET IT BE SAID:**

- Article 24 of the United Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states that:
  - Indigenous peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals. Indigenous individuals also have the right to access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services; and,*
  - Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right;*
- Initiatives such as Joyce's Principle aim to guarantee Indigenous Peoples the right to equitable access, without discrimination to all social and health services as well as the right to optimal wholistic health;
- Indigenous Patient Navigators have been established at key healthcare facilities with the objective to address cultural barriers, facilitate navigation of the healthcare system and safeguard against potential discrimination and racism; and
- There is an urgent need for the Ontario healthcare system to move beyond cultural sensitivity training to establish policies aimed at addressing racism, and implement cultural safety and trauma informed care.

**BIGIDNAMOG DASH GIINWI ANISHINAABE GIMAAG-MAAWANJIDIWAAD:**

**LET IT BE ACTED UPON, THAT WE, THE ANISHINABEK CHIEFS-IN-ASSEMBLY:**

- Direct the Grand Council Chief and the Chiefs Committee on Health to support and promote the efforts being undertaken to address racism and discrimination against First Nations citizens within the provincial health care system; and

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Aamjiwnaang First Nation  
Bnaakwii Giizis 24-25, 2023**

2. Direct the Anishinabek Nation Health Secretariat to research current and emerging efforts that are focused on enhancing and supporting Indigenous health education and systemic change within the primary health care system and incorporate Anishinaabe led approaches within the Long-Term Health Strategy and Health Transformation initiatives.



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Reginald Niganobe Kaawingai  
Grand Council Chief



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Chris Plain  
Southwest Deputy Grand Council Chief





<b>Debaachigaadeg</b>	<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Creation of a Safer Supply Implementation Guide</b>
<b>E-gaandinang</b>	<b>Mover:</b>	Chief Chris Plain, Aamjiwnaang First Nation
<b>E-ko-niizhing e-gaadinang</b>	<b>Seconder:</b>	Chief Roger Thomas, Munsee-Delaware Nation
<b>Be-minideg</b>	<b>Status:</b>	Carried
<b>Nendowendizig</b>	<b>Opposed:</b>	None
<b>Gegoo e-kidsig</b>	<b>Abstentions:</b>	None

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**MAANOO-DA-KIDOOMGAD - LET IT BE SAID:**

1. The opioid crisis within our Anishinabek Nation Communities has increased substantially since 2019, as well as fatal overdoses. Chiefs of Ontario (COO) and the Ontario Drug Policy Research Network (ODPRN) reports an increase of 132% in opioid-related deaths from March 2020 to December 2020;
2. Fentanyl has been detected in all supplies of illicit substances across Canada, more so in the last four years. Fentanyl directly contributed to 87% of opioid related deaths among First Nations People from March 2020 to December 2020. First Nations people account for 9% of opioid toxicity deaths despite being only 2.8% of Ontario's total population;
3. Generational trauma from colonization and residential schools has been directly linked to significantly higher rates of substance misuse within Anishinabek Nation communities. Studies have shown rates of substance misuse is significantly higher in Anishinabek Nation communities since the onset of the pandemic, and continue to rise post pandemic;
4. Harm reduction methods of care contribute significantly to lower rates of deaths, transmissible diseases and infections as well as saving lives, including Safer Supply;
5. Safer Supply has been shown to greatly improve health and wellness outcomes for people who use drugs. Including stable housing, improved mental health, improved overall health, lowered risk of HIV and Hep C transmissions as well as increased treatment for both HIV and Hep C; and
6. Safer Supply saves lives. Participants who have been involved in a safer supply program report little to no drug seeking behaviours. Meaning, reduced participation in illegal activity, reduced interactions with police and the justice system and improved judicial outcomes.

**BIGIDNAMOG DASH GIINWI ANISHINAABE GIMAAG-MAAWANJIDIWAAD:**

**LET IT BE ACTED UPON, THAT WE, THE ANISHINABEK CHIEFS-IN-ASSEMBLY:**

1. Direct the Anishinabek Nation to create a Safer Supply implementation guide in partnership with an approved consultant, for the use of Anishinabek Nation Communities;
2. Direct the Anishinabek Nation to seek out funding opportunities to ensure Safer Supply is successful and aligns with Anishinabek Nation values and worldviews;
3. Direct the Anishinabek Nation to evaluate Safer Supply programs within Anishinabek Nation Communities in accordance with legislation and the National Safer Supply Community of Practice Guidelines;
4. Direct the Anishinabek Nation to explore partnership opportunities with the Ontario Aboriginal HIV Aids Strategy (OAHAS) to maximize funding opportunities and harm reduction initiatives; and
5. Direct the Anishinabek Nation to report back to the Anishinabek Chiefs in Assembly on progress and evaluations regularly.



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Reginald Niganobe Kaawingai  
Grand Council Chief



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Chris Plain  
Southwest Deputy Grand Council Chief

<b>Debaachigaadeg</b>	<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Expanding the Anishinabek Nation Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Program</b>
<b>E-gaandinang</b>	<b>Mover:</b>	Chief Kimberley Bressette, Chippewas of Kettle and Stoney Point First Nation
<b>E-ko-niizhing e-gaadinang</b>	<b>Seconder:</b>	Gimaa Gerry Duquette, Dokis First Nation
<b>Be-minideg</b>	<b>Status:</b>	Carried
<b>Nendowendizig</b>	<b>Opposed:</b>	None
<b>Gegoo e-kidsig</b>	<b>Abstentions:</b>	None

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**MAANOO-DA-KIDOOMGAD - LET IT BE SAID:**

1. There is an increasing population of those who are Neuro-Divergent or have a Developmental Disability, (meaning they have differing mental and neurological functions compared to neuro-typical individuals that affects their daily life). This includes Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS), Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and other acquired brain injuries;
2. There is an increasing population of Anishinabek Nation community members, who are Neurodivergent or have a Developmental Disability (DD). In some communities, specialized services are not available, and those services provided do not take into account culture and traditional practices;
3. Research suggests that trauma, generational trauma, and stress are related to the increases in both FASD and ASD (Beverdors, Stevens Et. Al, 2020). Standardized assessments and diagnostic tools such as the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th Edition (DSM-5) do not consider the cultural and community contexts of First Nations people. This leads to fear and stigma surrounding assessments, diagnoses, and interventions and poses significant barriers;
4. Neurological complexities and lack of navigational support within communities for Developmental disabilities make it challenging for families to access appropriate services and supports. Lengthy waitlist up to two years, and geographical distances from diagnostic clinics and services creates large barriers. Families often need to leave their communities and support systems to access services. This can be very traumatic and difficult, so many are going undiagnosed and therefore not receiving supports;
5. The lack of knowledge and understanding among frontline workers, educators, caregivers, and community members on how to support individuals with Neuro Divergence and Developmental Disabilities is problematic and can compound

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stigmatization and isolation for those individuals;

6. The Anishinabek Nation FASD Program, has had many requests from AN Communities to provide training and supports for various Neurodivergence and Developmental Disabilities; however, the Anishinabek Nation does not have a program that is funded to support developmental exceptionalities in the communities apart from the FASD Program; and
7. Aspects of FASD and other Neurodivergence/Developmental Disabilities are closely related. All of these are lifelong and it is important that we offer services and supports in all areas through all the life stages. Current funding for our FASD program is very low, however by adding Autism Spectrum disorder and other Acquired Brain Injuries, we could tap into some additional funding resources to better support Anishinabek Nation communities and families.

**BIGIDNAMOG DASH GIINWI ANISHINAABE GIMAAG-MAAWANJIDIWAAD:**

**LET IT BE ACTED UPON, THAT WE, THE ANISHINABEK CHIEFS-IN-ASSEMBLY:**

1. Direct the Grand Council Chief to advocate for capacity and funding for the Anishinabek Nation and Anishinabek First Nations that will support the development of a comprehensive Neurodivergent Program that includes, but is not limited to:
  - i. Promoting the need for an immediate increase to the current FASD program funding in order to support Anishinabek Nation families and communities by providing education, training, and resources through all stages of life;
  - ii. Engaging in dialogue with relevant government authorities and funders to advocate for the inclusion of funding for Neurodivergence, Developmental Disabilities and acquired brain injuries; and
  - iii. Supporting Anishinabek First Nations by advocating for the development and implementation of a Program that has the necessary number of staff to deliver a comprehensive and effective program of support and resources for all the Anishinabek Nation communities.



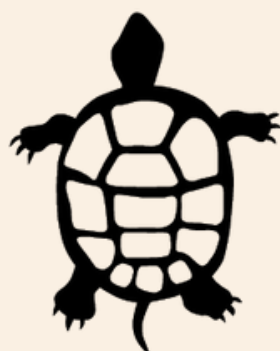
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Reginald Niganobe Kaawingai  
Grand Council Chief



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Chris Plain  
Southwest Deputy Grand Council Chief



# **Shiikenh Doodem**

**JUSTICE & LEGAL**



Debaachigaadeg	Subject:	Equitable Recognition of Tax-Exempt Retirement Incomes for First Nations Peoples
E-gaandinang	Mover:	Chief Keith Knott, Curve Lake First Nation
E-ko-niizhing e-gaadinang	Seconder:	Chief Roger Thomas, Munsee-Delaware Nation
Be-minideg	Status:	Carried
Nendowendizig	Opposed:	None
Gegoo e-kidsig	Abstentions:	None

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**MAANOO-DA-KIDOOMGAD - LET IT BE SAID:**

1. The *Income Tax Act* and the *Indian Act* recognize that income earned by status First Nations people on a federally recognized reserve is exempt from taxation;
2. In their working years, First Nations individuals with tax-exempt income receive a T4 with their employment income rightly listed as tax exempt;
3. Despite such provisions, when these individuals reach retirement, their pension contributions from income earned on a reserve are not recognized as tax exempt;
4. The current T4RIF and T4A(P) tax slips lack provision to identify First Nations tax exempt pension income, leading to frequent and undue reassessments by the CRA;
5. The absence of a dedicated system to track and recognize First Nation tax exempt Canada Pension Plan (CPP) contributions adds to the challenges faced by First Nations retirees;
6. The constant reassessments and misclassifications impose financial and emotional distress on First Nations retirees, undermining their rights and trust in the system; and
7. In accordance with the principles of fairness, justice, and respect, these challenges faced by First Nations individuals highlight the need for reforms to rectify these disparities.

**BIGIDNAMOG DASH GIINWI ANISHINAABE GIMAAG-MAAWANJIDIWAAD:**

**LET IT BE ACTED UPON, THAT WE, THE ANISHINABEK CHIEFS-IN-ASSEMBLY:**

1. Call upon the Government of Canada to address and rectify the discrepancies faced by status Indian retirees by:
  - a. Ensuring efficient and timely handling of tax-exempt retirement income entitlement concerning CPP and pension benefits for status Indians, to eliminate undue administrative burden, reassessments and emotional stress;

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Aamjiwnaang First Nation  
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- b. Updating the T4RIF and T4A(P) tax slips to include a dedicated box or other clarification as tax-exempt pension income or as derived from tax-exempt income, ensuring seamless recognition;
- c. Implementing a system to effectively track and recognize tax-exempt CPP contributions, alleviating undue burdens on status indian individuals;
- d. Recognizing and addressing the need for better financial literacy and awareness among First Nations individuals regarding their rights and entitlements related to tax-exempt retirement income; and
- e. Collaborating with First Nations communities and financial experts to devise solutions that uphold the financial rights and security of First Nations retirees and reduce administrative burden of government and First Nations.



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Reginald Niganobe Kaawingai  
Grand Council Chief



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Chris Plain  
Southwest Deputy Grand Council Chief



# Ajijaak Doodem

## POLITICAL

Debaachigaadeg	Subject:	<b>Approval for Revised Governance Documents:</b> - <i>Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin</i> - <i>Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Elections Guide</i> - <i>Anishinabek Nation Rules of Procedure</i>
E-gaandinang	Mover:	Chief Scott McLeod, Nipissing First Nation
E-ko-niizhing e-gaadinang	Seconder:	Gimaa Gerry Duquette, Dokis First Nation
Be-minideg	Status:	Carried
Nendowendizig	Opposed:	Ogimaa Kwe Rachel Manitowabi, Chief Helen Paavola
Gegoo e-kidsig	Abstentions:	None

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**MAANOO-DA-KIDOOMGAD - LET IT BE SAID:**

1. The Anishinabek Nation Chiefs in Assembly passed a resolution on May 1, 2018, at the Hilton Lac Leamy in Gatineau, Quebec (attached) titled "*Approval for Revised Bylaws and Chi Naaknigewin*";
2. The "*Approval for Revised Bylaws and Chi Naaknigewin*" resolution approved amendments to the *Constitutional Bylaws of the Union of Ontario Indians*, and the *Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin* to replace the position of one Deputy Grand Chief and four Regional Chiefs with four Deputy Grand Chiefs: one for Lake Huron, one for Lake Superior, one for Southeast and one for the Southwest (half-time), commonly referred to as the "four Deputy Grand Chief system";
3. These amendments, have been in effect since June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018;
4. During the implementation of the "four Deputy Grand Chief system", Anishinabek First Nation Chiefs raised concerns regarding its effectiveness, and in response to these concerns, a number of reports were generated for Anishinabek First Nation Chiefs;
5. The Anishinabek Nation Chiefs in Assembly struck a "Deputy Review Committee" to address concerns raised regarding the effectiveness of the "four Deputy Grand Chief system";
6. Over the past year, Anishinabek Nation First Nation Chiefs have continued to raise concerns with respect to the continuation of the "four Deputy Grand Chief system" and have requested that a decision be made regarding viability in its permanency;
7. The following concerns raised by Anishinabek Nation First Nation Chiefs were presented to the "Deputy Review Committee" for their consideration:
  - a. Lack of job descriptions for Deputy Grand Chiefs (which should be distinct from that of Grand Council Chief);
  - b. Financial viability: utilization of surplus funds originally intended for 'war chest';

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Aamjiwnaang First Nation  
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- c. Lack of travel parameters (including utilization of vehicles and excessive travel);
  - d. Lack of regional presence;
  - e. Differentiating between roles of Grand Council Chief, Deputy Grand Chiefs, Commissioners, etc;
  - f. Overreach into administration;
  - g. Lack of clear rationale for having both portfolio (Dodem) assignments and regional representation because they may (at times) conflict. Deputy Grand Chiefs are expected to provide a regional voice yet are supposed to represent all of Anishinabek Nation in a specific area(s);
  - h. Inconsistency in communication; some chiefs expressed concerns that the Deputy Grand Chief in their region has not been to their community;
  - i. Lack of reporting and accountability requirements for Deputy Grand Chiefs;
  - j. Lack of governing policies for the Political Office or guiding documentation for the elected positions (such as frequency of communication, deliverable results, community-based presence, etc.).
8. The “Deputy Review Committee” has completed its review of the concerns raised by Anishinabek First Nation Chiefs, in addition to assessing the financial viability of the positions;
9. The “Deputy Review Committee” is recommending a return to the previous structure of one full-time Grand Council Chief, one full-time Deputy Grand Chief, and four Regional Chiefs;
10. The current version of the *Constitutional Bylaws of the Union of Ontario Indians* does not require amendments to accommodate a return to the previous structure;
11. The current version of the *Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin* requires amendments to accommodate a return to the previous structure;
12. The current version of the *Grand Council Assembly Nomination and Election Guide* requires amendments to accommodate a return to the previous structure; and
13. The current version of the *Grand Council Assembly Rules of Procedure* requires amendments to reflect a return to the previous structure.

**BIGIDNAMOG DASH GIINWI ANISHINAABE GIMAAG-MAAWANJIDIWAAD:**

**LET IT BE ACTED UPON, THAT WE, THE ANISHINABEK CHIEFS-IN-ASSEMBLY:**

1. Accept the recommendation of the “Deputy Review Committee” to return to the previous structure of one full-time Grand Council Chief, one full-time Deputy Grand Chief, and four Regional Chiefs;
2. Direct that the Anishinabek Nation Chiefs in Assembly resolution passed on May 1, 2018, at the Hilton Lac Leamy in Gatineau, Quebec (attached) titled *Approval for Revised Bylaws and Chi Naaknigewin* be replaced by this resolution;



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Aamjiwnaang First Nation  
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3. Approve the following documents as amended (attached) to accommodate the change from the “four Deputy Grand Chief system” to the previous structure of one full-time Grand Council Chief, one full-time Deputy Grand Chief, and four Regional Chiefs, with an effective date of June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024:
  - a. *Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin*;
  - b. *Grand Council Assembly Nomination and Election Guide*;
  - c. *Grand Council Assembly Rules of Procedure*; and
4. That these recommendations include financial implications and a definition of roles, reporting and responsibilities of the Grand Council Chief and the Deputy Grand Council Chief and further that the four Regional Chiefs roles and responsibilities will be defined by their respective regions and received in ceremony.



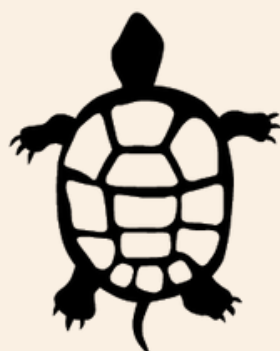
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Reginald Niganobe Kaawingai  
Grand Council Chief



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Chris Plain  
Southwest Deputy Grand Council Chief



# **Shiikenh Doodem**

**JUSTICE & LEGAL**

<b>Debaachigaadeg</b>	<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Legal Action to Advance First Nation Policing Enforcement</b>
<b>E-gaandinang</b>	<b>Mover:</b>	Ogimaa Kwe Rachel Manitowabi, Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory
<b>E-ko-niizhing e-gaadinang</b>	<b>Seconder:</b>	Chief Kimberley Bressette, Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation
<b>Be-minideg</b>	<b>Status:</b>	Carried
<b>Nendowendizig</b>	<b>Opposed:</b>	None
<b>Gegoo e-kidsig</b>	<b>Abstentions:</b>	None

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**MAANOO-DA-KIDOOMGAD - LET IT BE SAID:**

1. Inadequate, discriminatory and/or absent enforcement and prosecution has resulted in escalating gun, drug and gang activity, sexual assaults and multiple homicides. This is well understood and described in decades of publicly-funded inquests, commissions, tables, and reports;
2. Inadequate and/or absent enforcement and prosecution harms and undermines First Nations' ability to govern effectively;
3. Actions and Applications by single First Nations are limited as precedent for use by First Nations that have different policing models, board structures and other distinguishing characteristics. Further, precedents from such decisions delivered by both Courts and Tribunals are being ignored; and
4. In order to collectively protect our communities and uphold our sovereign governance, the Anishinabek Nation must consider legal recourse and propose an investigation and evaluation of legal options and a commitment to collective legal action.

**BIGIDNAMOG DASH GIINWI ANISHINAABE GIMAAG-MAAWANJIDIWAAD:**

**LET IT BE ACTED UPON, THAT WE, THE ANISHINABEK CHIEFS-IN-ASSEMBLY:**

1. Direct the Anishinabek Nation to engage legal professionals to evaluate the legal options beyond negotiation (i.e., class action or human rights tribunal claim) to address Ontario and/or Canada and/or the OPP's failure to provide or ensure adequate and equal enforcement and prosecution of the law -in particular, Indigenous law- for First Nation communities, and the damages that have resulted for First Nations and members;

**Anishinabek Gimaag-Maawnjidiwaad  
Aamjiwnaang First Nation  
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2. Direct that the investigation and evaluation of legal options be informed and guided by community input and Anishinaabe values, and reinforce First Nations' sovereignty and members' safety;
3. Direct the Anishinabek Nation to establish dedicated funding to investigate, evaluate, and implement potential legal options, up to and including collective legal action (e.g., class action) on behalf of member First Nations; and
4. Call on the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to join, participate and/or otherwise support collective legal action by the Anishinabek Nation as a response to this critical situation.



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Reginald Niganobe Kaawingai  
Grand Council Chief



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Chris Plain  
Southwest Deputy Grand Council Chief