

DIBAAJ MOWIN

SEPTEMBER

2022

A Message from the Director of Education

Boozhoo kina wiya,

I am so pleased to be connecting with you as the new Director of Education for the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body. In my first few weeks in this new role, I have noted the inspiring dedication and passion of everyone involved in the Anishinabek Education System. There are many partnerships driving the work of the AES - these relationships are truly at the foundation of our success. Each day I continue to be impressed by the educational achievements being made by the communities and by our team of staff at the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body.

I am a passionate advocate for everything that embodies education. I know that you share the same feelings for the communities that you represent. As we move forward, I trust that our collectivity will enable us to achieve the vision for the Anishinabek Education System, that *"All of our students are confident in their language, culture, and traditional knowledge."*

Miigwech,

**Shining Turtle
Director of Education**



Last 2 months in Review

Acronym Guide

- AES** - Anishinabek Education System
- KEB** - Kinoomaadziwin Education Body
- DSB** - District School Board
- REC** - Regional Education Council
- PFN** - Participating First Nation



★ Multi-Year Action Plan (MYAP)

Strategic Initiatives

The KEB is currently supporting five PFN communities that are implementing the Anishinabek Student Support Worker (ASSW) pilot program this fall. The ASSW pilot program enables communities to have a position that is dedicated to supporting students in the First Nation and in provincially funded schools that students may attend from the First Nation.



In each pilot community, these roles will support the vision of the AES Strategic plan in ensuring, "All of our students are confident, successful, and strong in their language, culture, and traditional knowledge." The communities who are running the pilots include Biigtigong Nishnaabeg, Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg, Whitefish River First Nation, Wahnapiatae First Nation, and Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation.

Communications

The KEB is proud to share its first publication in full Anishinaabemowin translation! The "AES in Partnership" is a quarterly communiqué that highlights partnership work occurring with PFNs, District School Boards, the Ministry of Education, and the KEB. The publication is now offered in Anishinaabemowin, English, and French. We hope that communities will share this communication out, as we know that sharing Anishinaabemowin resources is one way to help build speakers and learners.

Early Development Instrument (EDI) Implementation

The Anishinabek Education System will be working with the Offord Centre this fall to implement the Early Development Instrument. The EDI is a questionnaire completed by kindergarten teachers in the second half of the school year that measures children's ability to meet age-appropriate developmental expectations. PFNs with schools will have the opportunity to implement the tool, which will identify results in five main categories of development:



- 1** Physical Health & Well-Being
- 2** Social Competence
- 3** Emotional Maturity
- 4** Language and Cognitive Development
- 5** Communication Skills and General Knowledge

★ New Employees Update

hello

Shining Turtle

Director of
Education



Shining Turtle (Franklin Paibomsai) is a proud member of Whitefish River First Nation. He and his partner, Bonnie have three children together; Eli, Ira and Lucy along with two dogs, Ziggy and Mitty. He is a strong advocate of Anishinaabek education, with a focus on language, ceremony and land. Shining Turtle was the Ogimaa of Whitefish River First Nation from 2002 to 2022. Over his twenty years in office, Shining Turtle focussed his efforts on building relationships and working collaboratively with the elected Council, administrative staff, and citizens - both in the community and in urban centres - to achieve the strategic goals and vision of the First Nation. Shining Turtle divides his time between his home community and Sudbury, where his children attend school. Away from work, he enjoys spending quality time with his family and can often be found on the water fishing or in the bush trapping.

Carley Lambert

Communications
Assistant



Aanii! My name is Carley Lambert (Ezaawizid memegowan kwe.) I am a member of Dokis First Nation, and grew up in Hanmer, Ont. Before joining the KEB I worked at the marina in Dokis, Riverview Cottages, for six years. Working for Riverview made me want to study public relations. I began my studies at Cambrian College, where I received my three-year Advanced Diploma in June of 2021.

I enjoy interacting with the public. Meeting people from all over helped me grow as an individual and make great connections. In my free time you'll find me being active by playing hockey, basketball, or baseball. I enjoy being on the Upper French River fishing with my brother or father. I am excited to be apart of the KEB to expand everything Cambrian has taught me and work with the AES and Participating First Nations.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

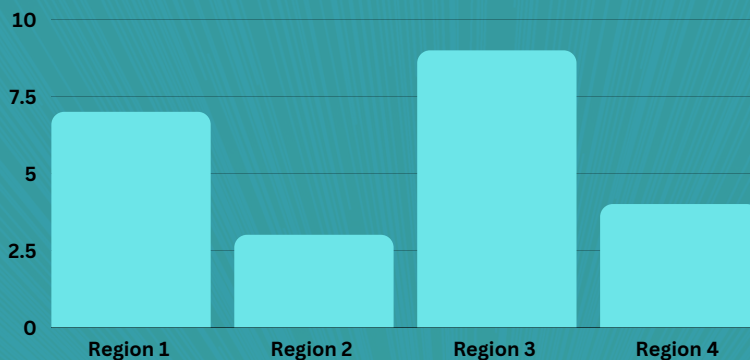
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Pic Moberg First Nation now uses its traditional Anishinaabe name, Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg. This name carries a specific meaning that is tied to the land where the First Nation is located. It means "the first big lake from the great lake" (Lake Superior). You'll notice the community's name change on the AES website and in all of our future publications. It's wonderful to see our traditional names being reintroduced in these ways!

★ Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund

The 2022-2023 Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund is off to an exciting start with 23 projects being implemented throughout the AES!

**23
projects
across
the AES!**

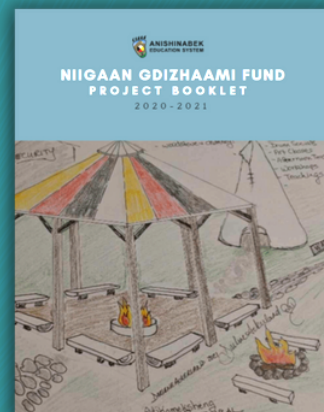


REMINDER!

If your First Nation has not signed its 2022-2023 Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund project agreement yet, please connect with Tammy Desmoulin as soon as possible.

FOLLOW-UP!

Final Reports for the 2021-2022 Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund were due on August 31, 2022. If your First Nation has not completed their final report yet, please send in as soon as possible.



Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund Booklet

The 2020-2021 Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund Booklet is now available online! This booklet provides an overview of the Fund's projects and overall outcomes for the year. Take a look and see if your community's project is highlighted in the booklet!

★ Special Education – Supporting All Learners

On September 14 and 15, the KEB hosted two professional development sessions facilitated by Dr. Pamela Toulouse. She presented first on Culturally Relevant Special Education, followed by a session on Truth and Reconciliation (based on her book Truth and Reconciliation in Canadian Schools). Both sessions provided participants with ideas and suggestions that could be embedded into the classroom or special education processes. In her session titled "Culturally Relevant Special Education: Our Children, Our Gifts", Dr. Toulouse shared questions that can be asked when working through Special Education processes. These questions can help to reframe SMART goals to be more culturally relevant. If you would like a recording of the Culturally Relevant Special Education session, please email the KEB's Special Education Coordinator, Colleen Sherriff, at colleen.sherriff@a-e-s.ca.

PART OF THIS RETRAINING AND REFRAMING FOR THE NON-INDIGENOUS SPECIALIST (AND EDUCATOR/S) CAN BE:

- How to be an ally and/or accomplice in special education,
- Decolonizing the tools of assessment in special education,
- Designing special ed plans with the whole child in mind,
- Engaging and honouring community and Elder knowledges in spec ed,
- Understanding that Indigenous special ed approaches contribute to inclusive education overall.

SMART FOR OUR COMMUNITIES IN IEP'S AND IPRC PROCESS

- ✓ Strengths Based for Learner
- 📊 Measurable by Community Standards
- 🌍 A meaningful inclusion of culture, language and worldview
- 👥 Relationships, reciprocity, respect, relevance and resources
- 👁️ Two Eyed Seeing and Thinking Outside of the Box as a Team

★ Regional Education Council Highlights

Region #1

The REC Coordinator for Region 1 visited Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg on Wednesday, September 7, 2022. The visit included a day at Netamisakomik Centre for Education, meeting with students and staff, and learning. The school maintains a living mural, which is an interactive map of the territory of Netmizaaggamig. The mural welcomes everyone into the school, and reminds everyone of 'Minobimaadziwin, 'It's a Good Life'. Highlights of the community visit included joining the school principal, Maggi Hill, with the JK & SK class for morning reading, and the grades 5 & 6 class for a reflective journey exercise.



Living Mural at Netamisakomik Centre for Education



REC Coordinator Joshua LeClair at the community entrance of Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg



White River flows through the community nestled on White Lake

Region #2

PFN Community visits were scheduled in Region 2. The visits were scheduled for and attended to, during the week of August 9 & 10, 2022. Four out of the six communities were visited to meet with PFN representatives and respective leaders and staff who were available, as well as an opportunity to tour and see the communities. During the meet and greet visits, sharing and gathering of information for foundational work in the region was gathered to be used for future regional planning. It was a beautiful week to travel and meet our representatives in person.



Region #3

Wahnapitae First Nation Education Department went on an Education Retreat to Manitoulin Hotel and Conference Centre in September 2022, to discuss options/ideas to assist our students throughout their educational journey. During the retreat, we reviewed our work plan and developed a 5-year strategic plan for the Education Department. New staff were introduced to the AES System and discussed the visions and projects of the KEB/AES. One of the main discussions was regarding the support systems in place with the respective school boards with EA/tutors. We spoke about how the First Nation could support some requests that the School Boards do not have the means for. The Education retreat was a great experience to work collaboratively. We look forward to continuing to support all our First Nations within our region and wish our students the best as they continue their educational journey.



On Thursday, September 22 Wahnapitae First Nation held an unveiling ceremony and community gathering for our brand-new Residential Schools Memorial Garden and Monument. Check out our the video we made on our YouTube channel, or click the link below!



[Wahnapitae Garden and Monument Gathering](#)



Region #4

Many summer learning programs took place throughout REC #4 this summer for students enrolled in both elementary and secondary school systems. Some great partnerships were begun with school boards and Participating First Nations. Some learning programs continued and built on the last summer's programs and partnerships.

Beausoleil First Nation ran two camps. Grade four students took part in a highly hands-on math program delivered in partnership with the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board (see pictures). Continuing from last year's summer learning program, grade 8 students were able to complete summer reach ahead credits in geography and science with partners Simcoe County District School Board and Water First.



★ National Day for Truth and Reconciliation



The KEB's Director of Education, Shining Turtle, visited several communities on September 29 and 30 to participate in local events honouring the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The City of North Bay held a "Every Child Matters Raising of the Flag" on September 29, where Shining Turtle and KEB Board Director Marianna Couchie offered opening remarks and the prayer. On September 30, Shining Turtle attended Sunrise Ceremony in Nipissing First Nation, followed by a community Honour Walk in Wahnapiatae First Nation. He then ended the day participating in the special events at Bell Park in the Greater City of Sudbury.





Maamwi Anishinaabeg Weshginiijig Youth Leadership Camp

The KEB hosted the virtual Maamwi Anishinaabeg Weshginiijig Youth Leadership Camp on August 25, 2022. The event was held to provide an opportunity for youth to gain knowledge, skills, and training to the implementation of the AES Youth Council. Anishinabek youth aged 16-25 were invited to hear from presenters about a variety of topics surrounding leadership. The youth also provided feedback on their own vision of the AES Youth Council.

Throughout the day, youth heard from motivational speaker Sandi Boucher, a leadership panel with Northern Superior Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief (RDGCC) Melvin Hardy and Chief Judy Desmoulin. Youth were also guided through a teaching about the preamble to the Anishinabek Chi-Naaknigewin, Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe, and they talked about "Seeking Mino Bimaadziwin" with presenter Sonya Belisle.

In the afternoon, guest speaker Audrey Fisher engaged youth in traditional teachings on leadership, and KEB staff collected feedback from youth on the topic of Student Success and Pathways. Emcee Ron Kanutski graciously facilitated the event, keeping everyone entertained with his signature humour and games.

The KEB is planning to host additional youth events throughout the school year, that will follow-up some of the discussions and planning that took place at the Youth Leadership Camp.

Zachary Beaudette, KEB Language and Culture Lead, gifted the KEB with the Anishinaabe name for the event. It means "a gathering of young Anishinabeg people". The idea came from his own experiences as a youth, when he and his friends formed a drum group. The name Anishinabeg Weshginiijig was given to them by a member from his community.



★ AES Student Consent Forms

**SUBMIT
YOUR
CONSENT
FORMS**

**Next parent session
on November 9th!**

The overall success of the AES relies upon having access to student data and information for students in First Nations schools and in provincial schools. Ontario also needs access to certain AES data so that they can adequately support AES students attending provincial schools. In order to support this sharing of data, the KEB requires data and information sharing consents from AES students and guardians.

The student consent forms will benefit both the KEB and Ontario to:

1. identify needs and priorities of off-reserve AES students in the provincial school system;
2. aide in the development of Education Services Agreements between AES First Nations and Ontario District School Boards;
3. promote educational research to support student success and well-being.

If you have a student that is in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12, please click on the following link to fill out the consent form and enter for a chance to win a prize! www.aes-keb.com/consent-forms

Need more information? Contact Tracy!
Tracy Hanzlik, Data Management Officer
705-845-3634 ext. 210
705-471-4668
tracy.hanzlik@a-e-s.ca

CONTEST DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 14, 2022

Submit signed consent form & student information form to be entered in the final draw on November 21!

**New
Contest**

KEB Staff and Board Gathering



The KEB Board of Directors and staff members gathered together at the end of September to focus on strategic planning, relationship building, and communication. The team took time to welcome the new Director of Education to the KEB with a traditional Blanket Ceremony.

The main outcomes driven from the gathering included:

- Development of a one-year implementation plan that supports the AES Strategic Plan
- Relationship building between KEB Staff, Board of Directors, key consultants, and the new Director of Education
- Professional development to increase knowledge of the Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe
- Planning and preparation for enhanced organizational effectiveness (streamlining operations and governance)

★ REC Fall Meetings



**IMPORTANT
DATES**

The Regional Education Council Fall Meetings will be taking place throughout October and November. These two-day meetings provide opportunity for regional representatives of the PFNs to gather in tailored discussions that focus on system-level priorities and community priorities. On the second day of meetings local District School Board representatives are invited to join regional representatives in ongoing discussions related to regional priorities and education initiatives under the Multi-Year Action Plan.

REC #1 November 2-3 in Thunder Bay

REC #2 October 19-20 in Sault Ste Marie

REC #3 October 5-6 in North Bay

REC #4 October 26-27 in Port Perry



KEEP A LOOK OUT!

Each month the KEB hosts an open learning session called Kweji-kinoomaagzidaa! "Let's Learn".

Our last session was Anisinaabe names with Deina Bomberry and we cannot wait to announce who is next!

★ Upcoming Events

November 9, 2022

Parent Consent Form Information Session

November 10 - 11, 2022

Fundamentals of Land-Based Learning

November 23, 2022

23 Participating First Nations Gathering

To learn more about upcoming events at the AES and KEB, please follow us on Facebook and other socials or visit our website's event calendar:

<https://aes-keb.com/calendar/>