

DIBAAJMOWIN

*A monthly communication from the
Kinoomaadziwin Education Body*

February
2019



Mukwaa
Giizis

Niigaan Gdizhaami – We Are Moving Forward Together

More than 150 people gathered at the Anishinabek Education System's (AES) fourth annual *Niigaan Gdizhaami – We Are Moving Forward Together Forum*, on February 26 & 27, at the Toronto Airport Marriott Hotel.



Evelyn Ball, KEB Board of Directors Secretary, offered welcoming remarks during the opening of the *Niigaan Gdizhaami* Forum, on February 26, 2019.

The education forum brought together Participating First Nations, Ontario District School Boards, provincial and federal representatives.

This year marked the first forum to be held since the AES took effect on April 1, 2018. As an information-sharing event, the forum served as a platform for updating attendees on the implementation of the Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement and the Master Education Agreement.

Some of the priority topics of engagement included student well-being, cultural competency, confident learners, and special education.

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NIIGAAN GDIZHAAMI FORUM 2019

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Participants also provided input on various education matters, discussed best practices and initiatives, and established educational priorities with their regional peers.

Keynote speaker Alan Corbiere enchanted participants with his historic knowledge of the language and his unique story-telling skills, while Harvey McCue informed the crowd with the theory of his life-promotion curriculum.

Presenters from the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body (KEB), the Ministry of Education, Participating First Nations and other organizations further complemented the forum by facilitating several workshops over the two-day event.

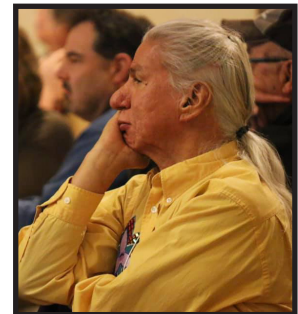
For the second consecutive year, a concurrent youth forum was offered to AES students. Youth participants were engaged in energetic sessions that focused on culture and language, the Anishinabek Nation Children's and Youth Bill of Rights, student well-being, and the establishment of an AES youth council.

"Interacting with youth and community educators at this event, gives us insight to first-hand experiences and perspectives," said Kelly Crawford, Director of Education for the KEB. "This kind of dialogue is invaluable to the development of initiatives that better support a culturally-relevant and holistic education system."

A formal report on the annual forum will be developed in the coming months.

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NIIGAAN GDIZHAAMI YOUTH FORUM IN PICTURES



POWERSCHOOL TRAINING

In January 2019, two on-site training sessions were held, as preparation for the PowerSchool implementation that will occur in March, throughout 13 Participating First Nations.

PowerSchool's Initial Product Training was delivered by trainer Lynn Bullock, a longtime veteran of the PowerSchool family. Training focused on familiarizing users with the interface of PowerSchool, and demonstrating the basic functions of the system.



More than 20 employees from AES schools in REC #2, REC #3 and REC #4 attended a two-day training session to prepare for the transition to a new student information system by March 30, 2019.

The first session occurred in Thunder Bay, on January 24 & 25, where fourteen staff from AES schools in REC #1 attended the two-day training event. On January 28 & 29, a training session was offered for AES school staff from REC #2, REC #3 and REC #4. More than 20 participants attended the training for these regions.

The following topics were reviewed throughout the training sessions:

- student enrollment
- student scheduling
- student attendance
- student behaviour and discipline
- managing grades and academic data
- transferring students
- historical grades and grade functionalities
- conducting student searches
- managing student activities

Additional remote training will be made available for staff and administration of AES schools in the coming weeks. Some of the anticipated training includes:

- PowerTeacher Grade Books
- PowerSchool Registration
- PowerSchool Special Education IEP
- PowerSource - online resources

For more information regarding the AES Student Information Management System, please contact:

Dylan Shigwadja | Information & Data Management Officer | dylan.shigwadja@a-e-s.ca

AES Student Consent Forms

In April 2019, Participating First Nations will distribute consent form packages to all AES students and parents, living on-reserve and off-reserve.

The packages will contain information explaining the purpose for the consents and the use of AES student information and data.

Students and parents are encouraged to review and complete the consent forms, and to return the forms by mail to their First Nations.

More information on the consents can be found on page 5.

Who will have access to student data and information?

FIRST
NATION &
SCHOOL

LOCAL
SCHOOL
BOARD

KEB
&
ONTARIO

How will student data and information be used by the Anishinabek Education System and Ontario?

The Data and Information Sharing Agreement signed between the Kinooamaadziwin Education Body (KEB) and Ontario indicates that student data and information will only be used to further the objectives of the Master Education Agreement (MEA). Under this agreement, AES student information may be used for the following purposes:

- to support Anishinabek student success and well-being;
- to support continuous improvement in education effectiveness;
- to inform ongoing system and school-level planning;
- to inform priorities for professional learning;
- to prepare public reports in accordance with the Master Education Agreement;
- to support research, as described in the Master Education Agreement;
- to support evaluation and monitoring activities;
- to inform the development of the Multi-Year Action Plan and the Transfer Payment Agreement, as described in the MEA;
- to meet multi-level reporting requirements under the MEA;
- to support activities under the Multi-Year Action Plan; and
- other purposes agreed to in writing by the Parties.

Why is it important to provide consent? What are the benefits?

Benefit to Students

- Individual student records will be accessible through the KEB and Ontario.
- Inclusive statistical data will consistently reflect on-reserve and off-reserve students.
- Fluid transition of records for students moving between provincial and Anishinabek education systems.



Benefit to AES Schools and Communities

- Supports the continued development and delivery of quality education programs and services in AES schools.
- Allows communities and schools to capture accurate educational statistics for on and off-reserve students.
- Enables educators to customize professional development and learning.



Benefit to AES/KEB and Ontario

- Assists in identifying needs and priorities of off-reserve AES students in the provincial school system.
- Aides in the development of Education Services Agreements between AES First Nations and Ontario District School Boards.
- Promotes educational research to support student success and well-being.

For additional questions and information regarding AES student information consent forms, please contact :

Andrea Crawford | andrea.crawford@a-e-s.ca

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Joint Master Education Agreement Committee (JMEAC)

The committee last met in February, in preparation for the Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum. Various deliverables within the Multi-Year Action Plan (MYAP) of the Master Education Agreement (MEA) have recently been completed, and a quarterly report on the committee's work plan has been drafted. The JMEAC continues to work with each of the MEA committees to ensure the timely implementation of the MYAP projects and activities. Upcoming priorities include the release of the 2019-2020 Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund and the annual review of progress and input related to the Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum.



Special Education Committee (SEC)

The Kinoomaadziwin Education Body has completed the special education scan of the Anishinabek Education System's 23 Participating First Nations (PFN). The data collected in the special education scan will be used to drive the work of the Special Education Committee. From these scans, initial gaps and opportunities were identified and shared with PFNs at the Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum, on February 27, 2019. Participants prioritized the gaps and opportunities and the feedback collected will assist the SEC to develop recommendations for review by the JMEAC.



Data, Research & Evaluation Committee (DREC)

The DREC continues to implement projects #10 and #11 of the MEA's Multi-Year Action Plan. A "Theory of Change Logic Model" has been developed by the committee, and participants at the Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum provided feedback on several draft visuals that will accompany the logic model. The feedback collected from the forum will be reviewed by the committee and will influence the final high-level visual for the logic model. The committee is also monitoring the completion of the New School Registrations (BSIDs) and the distribution of the AES Student Information Consent Forms. More information on student consent forms can be found on pages 4 & 5.



Transitions Working Group (TWG)

The Transitions Working Group meets regularly to establish and implement an action plan that will address student transition priorities. On February 27, the TWG shared five priorities that drive the work of the committee. Each of the priorities was reviewed and discussed by participants at the Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum, and feedback was collected to ensure that the priorities are reflective of the Participating First Nations. The feedback and the priorities will assist the Transitions Working Group to develop a draft action plan. The five transition priorities can be viewed at the following link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TeyvYOxVMswJP-lzTQJd1Mj3ipHg65C9/view?usp=sharing>

KEB STAFF INTRODUCTION

Haley Laronde - Communications Officer

Haley Laronde is originally from the Teme-Augama Anishinaabe (People of the Deep Water) in Temagami, Ontario. Growing up on Lake Temagami, Haley spent much of her time in the outdoors exploring the land and waters that make up the Teme-Augama Anishinaabe traditional territory. In her most recent position, Haley was a Communications Officer for Temagami First Nation. She believes that strong communication is paramount to the success of an organization and strives to ensure that information is developed and distributed to meet the needs of the recipient.

Having worked as a freelance graphic designer for over five years, her experience is enhanced by a Diploma in Digital Art and Design. She is also working on completing a Bachelor of Design in her spare time. As Communications Officer, Haley is responsible for strategic communications planning and developing writing and communications products.

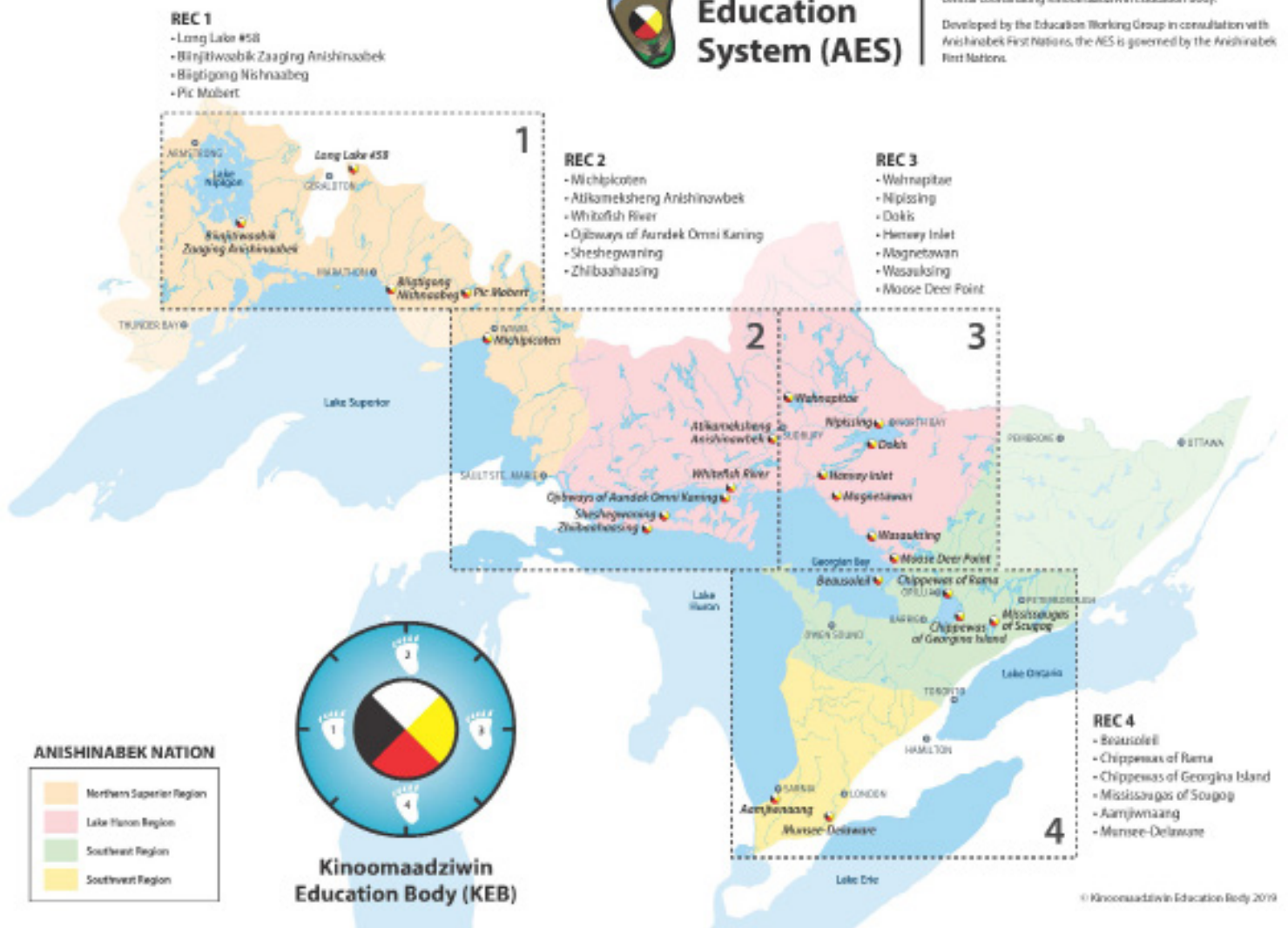
REGIONAL MAP OF THE AES



Anishinabek Education System (AES)

This illustration shows the Anishinabek First Nations organized into four Regional Education Councils (REC). It also shows their central coordinating Kinooamaadziwin Education Body.

Developed by the Education Working Group in consultation with Anishinabek First Nations, the AES is governed by the Anishinabek First Nations.



INTERESTS & EVENTS

AES & AN Child Well-Being Joint Meeting

The Kinooaadziwin Education Body and the Anishinabek Nation Social Development department will be partnering to host a joint meeting on March 6, 2019, at the Delta Waterfront Hotel, in Sault Ste. Marie. The meeting is open to participants from the 40 Anishinabek First Nations, and will provide updates regarding the Anishinabek Education System and Child Well-Being initiatives.

For more information, please contact the KEB head office at 705-845-3634.

Fall REC Meetings

Final reports from the Fall REC Meetings are now available on the KEB website. A summary report has been developed for each of the four meetings that took place in November and December 2018.

To view the regional reports, please visit:

<http://aes-keb.com/publications>

Good Luck Little NHL Players!

The Board of Directors and the staff of the Kinooaadziwin Education Body would like to wish good luck to all of the Little Native Hockey League players travelling from our Participating First Nations.

Many of our aspiring athletes will be playing with teams in the competitive and recreational divisions at the 48th annual event, hosted by Aamjiwnaang First Nation.

We hope that all of the players, parents, organizers and supporters enjoy a safe and successful week in Mississauga, Ontario.

Play Hard!



CONGRATULATIONS

to Biigtigong Nishnaabeg for being selected as a finalist in the \$5 million-category of Infrastructure Canada's "Smart Cities Challenge"!

We wish you good luck in the final selection round!



***Dibaajmowin* is a monthly, digital publication produced by the Kinooaadziwin Education Body.**

Content & Design: KEB Staff & AES First Nation contributions

Publication Location: 100-132 Osprey Miikan
North Bay, ON P1B 8G5
705-845-3634
<http://aes-keb.com>

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Education Body

ISSN:
2561-9802