

# DIBAAJMOWIN

A bi-monthly communication from the  
Kinoomaadziwin Education Body

August  
2019



Mnoomni  
Giizis



Staff of the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body ready at the start line of their group scavenger hunt. The team-building exercise encouraged staff to work together to complete various tasks in the fastest time. Tracey O'Donnell, Sara Jamieson and Renee Restoule (at far right) took first place. Please see additional information about the KEB staff and board retreat on pages 2-3.

# STRATEGIC DIRECTION & COMMUNICATIONS AT KEB STAFF RETREAT

The Kinoomaadziwin Education Body held its first staff retreat on July 9 and 10, at Fern Resort in Rama, Ontario.

With a complete year of implementation to review and assess, the KEB team gathered over two days to discuss the successes and challenges of the first year, roles and responsibilities of the organization, opportunities for improvement, and renewed strategic planning.

Team-building activities encouraged the 13 staff members of the KEB to learn more about each other's roles and to work collaboratively towards accomplishing group tasks.

Some of the unique exercises that grounded the retreat included a teaching about carrying personal medicine bundles, and identifying daily applications of the AES vision and mission.

Staff also made time to set personal goals, reflect on their job descriptions and share their needs for professional development.

The KEB Board of Directors joined staff members on July 11, taking advantage of a rare opportunity to meet in person and build on new relationships. Staff and Directors participated in a group challenge, reviewed priorities and talked about next steps for the organization.

The Board continued to meet on its own for an additional day, during which time they conducted self-assessments, worked on a Board action plan, and discussed regular business. The Board and staff of the KEB hope to make the event an annual opportunity that fosters relationship-building, growth and continuous improvement.

## A plan for communications: KEB focus for 2019-2021

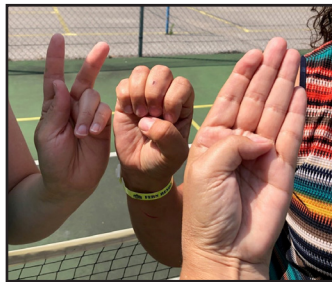
Internal	External	Online Presence	Marketing and Promotion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teamwork and cross-team collaboration.</li> <li>Shared messaging between Board / staff.</li> <li>Policy and protocol development.</li> <li>Enhanced staff meetings and employee incentives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular updates to leadership.</li> <li>Board communiques.</li> <li>Consistent newsletter.</li> <li>Student inclusion in communications.</li> <li>Regularly scheduled community visits.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulated social media posts.</li> <li>Updates and enhancements to website.</li> <li>Muti-level file-sharing portal.</li> <li>Synchronized content for FN newsletters.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotional booths at FN events.</li> <li>Student celebration campaigns.</li> <li>AES branding in schools and PFNs.</li> <li>AES publications for targeted audiences.</li> </ul>

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# STAFF AND BOARD RETREAT PHOTOS





# KEB WELCOMES NEW STAFF

## **TAMMY DESMOULIN**

*Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund  
Coordinator*



I am originally from Biigtigong Nishnaabeg in Northern Superior. Growing up in Northern Superior, I spent most of my time playing hockey and baseball. I now call Nipissing First Nation my home, where I live with my husband and two sons.

In my most recent position, I was a Program Coordinator for the Lands & Resources Department at the Anishinabek Nation. I always knew I wanted to work for the betterment of our People. To reach this goal, I earned a Bachelor of Arts at Laurentian University and continued my studies to receive my LL.B. at the University of Windsor.

In my free time, I enjoy taking excursions around Nipissing and North Bay with my family. I also enjoy powerlifting, baseball and beading.

As the Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund Coordinator, I am responsible for managing the administration of the Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund.

I look forward to working closely with the Participating First Nations!

## **MAKENZIE DOKIS**

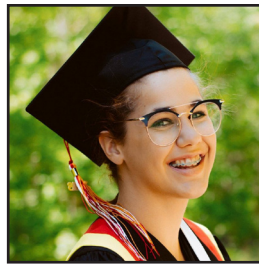
*Community Information Officer*

Aaniin!

My name is Makenzie Dokis. I am from Dokis First Nation and I will be working with the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body, as the Community Information Officer. My primary role at the KEB is researching and gathering information about and for the Participating First Nations.

I work with the communication staff to assist with organizing and preparing material, planning for AES

events, and contacting communities for information.



I will also be assisting in the research and initial development of a Youth council for the AES, throughout the year.

## **JULIAN COTE**

*Information &  
Data Management  
Officer*

Aanii,



My name is Julian Cote, and I am from Temagami First Nation. I began with the KEB in July and am happy to work with the knowledgeable, helpful and friendly staff here. Also, through this position I am excited to work with the AES school administrators, teachers, students and parents on the student information system for this school year and beyond!

I come to this organization bringing many years of database and IT experience, education and training. My other passion is being a music creator. My music can be heard in a number of films, SiriusXM radio, online and live at various music festivals and special events.

Good luck to all AES students returning to class in September!

# 2019-2020 NIIGAAN GDIZHAAMI FUND

The Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund is an annual grant that was established by the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body (KEB) and the Ministry of Education. The objective of the Fund is to support and invest in community and joint projects, that advance the objectives of the Master Education Agreement, through five guiding priorities.

Twenty-three projects and initiatives have been approved for funding through the 2019-2020 Fund. Each project and initiative was submitted under one of four funding streams and fulfills one or more of the five priorities for the Fund.

This year, fourteen applications were funded under the Joint First Nation and School Board stream, while eight applications were funded under the Individual stream, and one application was funded under the Joint First Nation and Third Party stream.

The projects includes graduation coach programs, student support programs, celebratory events, and cultural training, among other things. A complete list of funded projects is provided below.

R E C 1	<b>Biigtigong Nishnaabeg</b>	Collaborative Indigenous Studies/Language Project
	<b>Biigtigong Nishnaabeg</b>	Indigenous Academic Tutor – Education Counselor
	<b>Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek</b>	Indigenous Education Counselor – Tutor
	<b>Long Lake # 58 First Nation</b>	Bimaadizowin Centre – Living the Good Life
R E C 2	<b>Atikameksheng Anishnawbek</b>	A First Nation's Perspective on History, Culture and Traditions
	<b>Atikameksheng Anishnawbek</b>	Land Based Learning
	<b>Aundeck Omni Kaning</b>	Community Memoirs Curriculum Resource Development
	<b>Aundeck Omni Kaning</b>	Languages Immersion Camp
	<b>Aundeck Omni Kaning</b>	Graduation Coach/4 Directions Model
	<b>Whitefish River First Nation</b>	Numeracy and Robotics
	<b>Whitefish River First Nation</b>	Strength Based Approach – A School Wide Approach
	<b>Whitefish River First Nation</b>	Revitalizing Our Language
R E C 3	<b>Whitefish River First Nation</b>	A Day of the Extraordinary
	<b>Moose Deer Point</b>	Graduation Coach Model
	<b>Nipissing First Nation</b>	Education Poster Campaign Initiative
	<b>Nipissing First Nation</b>	It's Our Time
	<b>Wahnapiatae First Nation</b>	Epiichi-maamwii-yaaing (While We're All Together)
R E C 4	<b>Wasauksing First Nation</b>	Water Walk
	<b>Aamjiwnaang First Nation</b>	Anishinaabek Studies Development Project
	<b>Aamjiwnaang First Nation</b>	Secondary Student Leadership
	<b>Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation</b>	Supporting Successful Education Journeys
	<b>Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation</b>	Giizhigong (Daylight)
	<b>Munsee-Delaware Nation</b>	Lunaape Language Teacher at Delaware Central P.S. and Strathroy District Collegiate Institute

# COMMITTEE UPDATES

## Master Education Agreement (MEA)

The Kinoomaadziwin Education Body and the Ministry of Education continue to work together to support the implementation of the MEA through the projects and initiatives of the Multi-Year Action Plan (MYAP). Following a year-one review, the MYAP has been revised to better support the operations of the Anishinabek Education System.

The work of the supporting committees is heavily focused on building inventories, developing guidelines, implementing pilot initiatives and strategizing long-term directions. Each of the committees will be providing updates to PFNs at the upcoming REC Fall Meetings in October 2019.

## Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement (ANEA)

The Implementation and Operations Committee (IOC) met in July and September to continue discussions related to the implementation of the ANEA. Areas of focus for the IOC include discussions related to funding allocations, Post Secondary Education funding and Education Major Capital, additional parties to the ANEA, and harmonization of the ANEA and the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement.

Harmonization of the two self-government agreements is a priority issue for the KEB, as the ratification of the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement approaches in February 2020.

The committee is scheduled to meet next in January 2020, and the IOC annual implementation report for the ANEA is scheduled to be completed in December 2019.

# ANISHINABEK NATION YOUTH & ELDERS GATHERING

The KEB welcomed three summer students to its office this July and August. They attended the Anishinabek Nation's Eshkiniijig and Getzidjig Governance Gathering, held in Sault Ste. Marie on July 30, 31 and August 1, 2019.

The students took part in traditional governance teachings, and heard from Youth leaders and Elders on various topics of interest.

A pizza dinner was hosted by the KEB on Day One of the event, inviting youth to learn more about the Anishinabek Education System.

AES Youth participated in a KEB survey that focused on collecting feedback related to student success, pathways programming and communications.

The data collected at the gathering will inform ongoing work related to the AES Youth Council and Student Success and Pathways.

Chi-miigwech to the Anishinabek Nation for hosting a remarkable event that left our students motivated and inspired!

\*Photo credit: Anishinabek Nation





# SCHOOL BOARD & FIRST NATIONS RENEW AGREEMENT

Rainbow District School Board celebrated an historic moment on August 30, when it revealed its action plan for Truth and Reconciliation with 10 First Nation communities in the Lake Huron region.

The unique ceremony was hosted on the traditional territory of the Atikameksheng Anishinawbek, and the event was attended by First Nation leaders, Elders, students, school board representatives and media.

*Truth and Reconciliation: Commitment to Action* was developed under the guidance of the school board's First Nations Advisory Committee. The plan considered recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls-to-action, as well as community feedback and professional consultation.

Accepted by the school board in 2018, the plan was formally announced and shared with First Nation partners in an inclusive ceremony led by Elder Art Petahtagoose.

The gathering also celebrated the renewal of the collaborative Education Service Agreement with the First Nations, which include seven Participating First Nations of the Anishinabek Education System.

Seven social factors serve as guiding principles for the agreement.

They include curricular and instructional practices, organizational practices, linguistic perspectives and practices, personnel equity, school culture, school/community involvement and relations, and equity of educational outcomes.

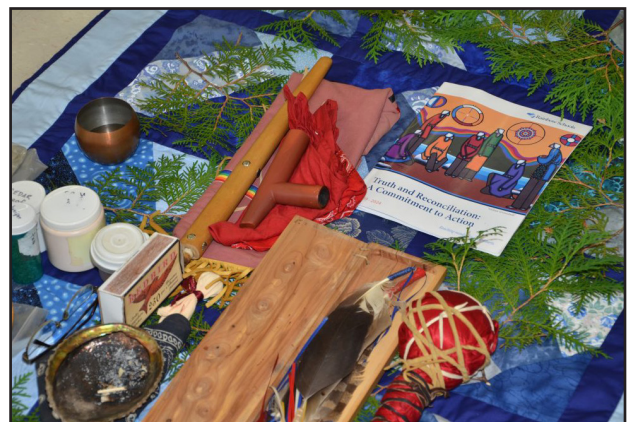
A progress report is presented annually, to ensure the measurement of outcomes and to maintain communication and inclusion with all parties.

More information on the Rainbow District School Board's plan for action can be found on the school board website.

<https://www.rainbowschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Truth-and-Reconciliation-Action-Plan-2019-2024.pdf>



Rainbow District School Board Director of Education Norm Blaseg and Atikameksheng Anishinawbek Chief Valerie Richer.



The cover of the action plan is an original painting by First Nation artist Leland Bell. Entitled *Bebaminojimat*, the artwork represents a Gesture of Goodwill.



Rainbow District School Board Chair Doreen Dewar and Whitefish River First Nation Chief Shining Turtle.

\*Photo Credit: Rainbow District School Board

# NEWS & EVENTS



**LOCATIONS &  
AGENDAS TO  
FOLLOW**

## SAVE THE DATES

Anishinabek Education System  
*Regional Education Council  
Fall Meetings*

### REC #1

October 16 & 17, 2019  
Oct 16 - PFNs / Oct 17 - PFNs and ODSBs

### REC#2

October 8 & 9, 2019  
Oct 8 - PFNs / Oct 9 - PFNs and ODSBs

### REC #3

October 28 & 29, 2019  
Oct 28 - PFNs / Oct 29 - PFNs and ODSBs

### REC#4

October 23 & 24, 2019  
Oct 23 - PFNs / Oct 24 - PFNs and ODSBs



## PowerSchool

ONLINE TRAINING

End-user training for PowerTeacher Pro, Learning Implementation and Special Programs will be offered in late August and early September.

The training will be available to AES school administration and teaching staff, in preparation for the final transition to the PowerSchool student information system.

**AUGUST 26**

Special Programs

**AUGUST 29**

Learning Implementation

**AUGUST 30**

Teacher Pro

## RECIPROCAL EDUCATION APPROACH Effective September 1, 2019

The Ministry of Education will be releasing amendments to specific sections of the Education Act on September 1, 2019.

This revised legislation will be known as the Reciprocal Education Approach.

The Reciprocal Education Approach aims to streamline the registration and tuition-payment processes for students transferring between provincially-operated schools and First Nation-operated schools.

More information and resources will be shared by the Ministry of Education in the coming weeks.

Anyone unable to attend the online training sessions is encouraged to visit the PowerSource website. This site provides user-access to unlimited training, tools and learning resources.

To confirm your training attendance, or for assistance accessing PowerSource, please contact:

**Julian Cote**

Information & Data

Management Officer

705-845-3634

[julian.cote@a-e-s.ca](mailto:julian.cote@a-e-s.ca)



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