



Dibaaymowin

MAY

A Message from the Interim Director of Education Team

Aanii kina wiya!

In the blink of an eye, a full month has passed since we met at the Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum in April. The event welcomed approximately 175 participants, with 110 people attending in-person and 65 people joining virtually throughout two days. What an excellent turn-out for the Kinooaadziwin Education Body's (KEB) first major in-person event since before the COVID-19 pandemic!

The staff and Board of the KEB would like to thank everyone who attended the forum (in-person or virtually) and helped to make it a wonderful success. From the participants, to the presenters, to the dignitaries, to the planning committee members, we are so grateful for the roles that each of you played in this event.

As we look forward to the KEB's Annual General Meeting on June 8, 2022, we hope to see many representatives of the Participating First Nations gathered in-person and online, once again. We hope that everyone enjoys a wonderful start to the summer season, and on June 6th, we wish all members of the Anishinabek family a memorable Anishinabek Day.

Mino Anishinaabe Gizhigad!

From the Interim Director of Education Team



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) Project Updates

→ Curriculum Resources and Program Development

In response to feedback from all four regions, KEB staff are developing Anishinaabemowin teaching resources to meet the needs of Anishinabek learners. The Curriculum Development Coordinator, the Language and Culture Lead, and the Communications Officer met over several days this month, to put together the first kit. This project is titled "Anishinaabemowin Colours – Idea Kit". It was created with language teachers in mind, but it can also be used by classroom teachers. The rollout plan for this resource is to distribute the Idea Kits to each interested Participating First Nation (PFN) with an elementary school. Since this is a new initiative for the KEB, we have also included a survey so that anyone can submit feedback and suggestions about the Idea Kit to support the next steps for resource development and sharing.

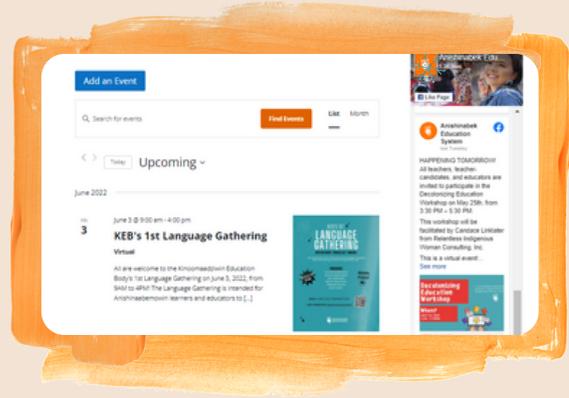


Based on the feedback from the surveys, improvements to the existing resource will be collected and added. A compilation of literacy resources by Indigenous authors is being reviewed with the intention of creating another language resource for sharing with the PFNs.

→ Communications

Communications is an integral part of the relationship building that occurs within the Anishinabek Education System (AES) and with District School Boards (DSBs). The key role of communications is to identify and promote successful practices in programs and services. Some of the on-going products in communications include:

- Dibaajmowin bi-monthly newsletters;
- Monthly Multi-Year Action Plan (MYAP) updates for Regional Education Councils (RECs)
- Monthly KEB updates for the Master Education Agreement committees;
- Events calendar added to the KEB website to promote AES events and information sessions; and
- Joint Communiqués with the Ministry of Education are released quarterly in October, January, April, and July of each year.



Please contact AES Communications to receive any of the communication products at communications@a-e-s.ca. The KEB's annual report will be shared in June 2022.



→ Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund



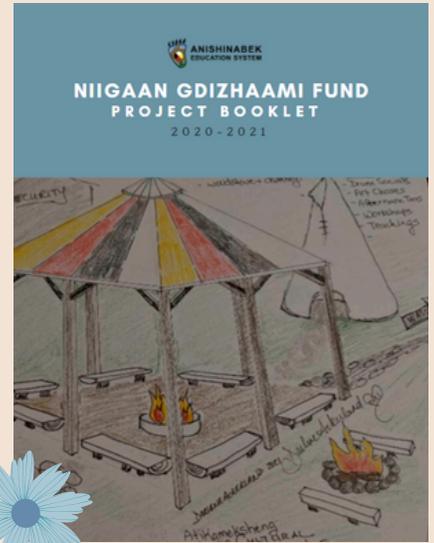
PROPOSAL UPDATE

NG Fund proposals will be reviewed, and successful applicants will be notified before the end of June.

Have you taken a look at the Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund Project Booklet yet? This document provides a detailed overview of the 27 projects funded by the Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund in 2020-2021. These projects positively affected over 550 students throughout the AES.

HOPE is a strong word that was prevalent throughout the Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund project reports. Anishinabek students felt a sense of hope that their history, cultural knowledge, language, and way of life would not be lost. In addition, students felt a **SENSE OF BELONGING** and were empowered by the knowledge of understanding their identity and where they come from. - **FAYE KING,**

BIINJITIWAABIK ZAAGING ANISHINAABEK,
INDIGENOUS ACADEMIC TUTOR



→ Relationship Building

This month, each of the RECs participated in Regional Spring Meetings. These meetings were one-day events, with the PFNs attending in the morning, and both the PFNs and the DSBs participating in the afternoon. The Regional Spring Meetings are an opportunity to discuss regional priorities. Some of the topics for this year's agendas included:

- Special Education priorities
- AES Youth Council updates
- Student data sharing
- Student consent forms
- AES Financial Agreement negotiations
- Regional workplans
- MYAP updates
- AES Student Transitions Protocol
- Engagement Protocols
- Regional highlights
- School Improvement Planning
- Strategic Initiatives
- Sharing from Knowledge Keepers
- Regional Language Projects
- Ezhi Kendmang Anishnaabe Naadziwin(EKAN) Training
- Review of the Fall Regional meeting

Based on the input collected across all four regions, a summary report will be drafted to share with RECs and action items will be highlighted to inform regional priorities moving forward.



→ Implementation of Data and Information Sharing Agreement

The AES requires two forms to be filled out by the parent/legal guardian of AES students (who are 15 years and younger) or the AES students themselves (who are 16 years and older):

1. Anishinabek Education System Consent Form
2. Anishinabek Education System Student Information Form

To learn more about form submissions and information on how the data is used, please visit <https://aes-keb.com/consent-forms/>



**WE NEED YOUR
CONSENT FORMS!**

Presentations about data and information have been offered at some of the Regional Education Council Spring Meetings in May. These opportunities for dialogue bring forward many great discussions and they enable relationship building to continue between First Nations and District School Boards. If your community is interested in having a presentation on the AES data and information, please contact Tracy Hanzlik, the KEB's Data Management Officer, at Tracy.Hanzlik@a-e-s.ca.



→ Research and Evaluation

A new Research Advisory Group has been formed to support the ongoing work of the AES! The new members include: Tracy Hanzlik (KEB), Alicia Cameron (KEB), Beatrice D'Angelo (EDU), Pamala Agawa (EDU), John Playford (Simcoe Catholic DSB), Sarah Sandy (External Partner), and Julia Pegahmagabow (Anishinaabe Aadiziiwin Bemwidod).

This group was formed to provide support, advice, and recommendations on matters related to the longitudinal research study for the AES. The group will clarify the focus of the longitudinal research on Anishinabek Student Success and Well-Being, which will assist with the development of the KEB's longitudinal study proposal. Meetings will begin in May.



Regional Education Council Highlights

The REC Coordinators and PFNs have been busy with multiple exciting projects!

Region 1

- EKAN Module 2 was held in Biigtigong Nishnaabeg with Sandi Boucher with over 30 staff from Superior Greenstone District School Board. The group learned new perspectives on history, impacts of federal laws on First Nations, and listened to personal stories from community representatives. Module 3 will be hosted in Long Lake #58 in Fall 2022.
- Region 1 met in Thunder Bay for the annual spring meeting and welcomed Audrey Fisher from Long Lake #58 to the REC. The region also made positive steps forward on the Engagement Framework Agreement with partner DSBs.
- The Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum provided an opportunity for Region 1 to connect with one another. The Medicine Wheel was used as a teaching tool to begin thinking about how Anishinabek understanding can influence work in education.
- REC Coordinator, Joshua, acted as the Youth Ambassador with Nathalie Restoule facilitating the youth agenda at the NG Forum. Each youth introduced themselves in Anishinaabemowin, a sign that the language is returning, and it will return with the young ones. One of the highlights was creating TikTok videos with important messages to share with all forum delegates. Calls for creating safe spaces, respect, and return to Anishinabek ways of being inspired everyone in attendance.



Region 2

Region 2 was successful in implementing Ezhi Kendmaang Anishnaabe Naadziwin (EKAN), which is the AES's cultural competency program that was piloted regionally, beginning in Fall 2021. Region 2's pilot program was a collaboration between Whitefish River First Nation and the Huron Superior Catholic District School Board. Participants in the training included a small group of teachers and staff from Sacred Heart Catholic School in Espanola, Ontario. To mitigate challenges with teacher release time and COVID, the sessions were all completed virtually after school hours so that teachers could participate freely. The sessions were facilitated by Bonnie Nahwegabow from Shawanosowe School, with special guest facilitator Sophie Pheasant (Wikwemikoong First Nation). Syndy Withers, Principal at Sacred Heart Catholic School, was instrumental in coordinating the planning necessary to implement the training. Responses and feedback have been positive, with participants noting the appreciated benefit of having multiple opportunities to engage and learn together on sensitive topics such as residential schools and parental mistrust of education systems.

Region 3

- Regional Education Council #3 Spring Meeting took place on May 17, 2022. The morning session included a discussion of regional priorities such as the Regional Workplan, Special Education, AES Youth Council, Anishinabek Education Fiscal Transfer Negotiations update, Community Profiles Project, etc. The afternoon session included discussions with partner District School Boards on joint initiatives such as the engagement protocol process, Multi-Year Action Plan project updates, strategic initiatives, AES data and information sharing and roundtable discussions.
- The first engagement session with PFNs and DSBs to support the implementation of the Student Transition Protocol was held April 13, 2022. The student transitions protocol can be found in the following link <https://simplebooklet.com/studenttransitionsprotocol>
- A Regional Networking session was held at the Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum on April 20, where participants heard a presentation from KEB Legal Counsel on the development of a Regional Engagement Protocol. The Regional Engagement Protocol is a project under the Multi-Year Action Plan and will be done in collaboration with partner DSBs and a process for its development will be set out by the two parties. Region 3 will be participating in the Special Education Resource Development Project along with the other Regions and project team Mercer, Ray & Co. The project will see the development of meaningful and parent friendly special education resources for families. Participants also received updates on the Community Profiles Project at the regional networking session.



Region 4

- Delivery of the 2nd Indigenous First Nation and District School Board Language Teachers virtual meeting took place on May 4th and was hosted by Zachary Beaudette. We look forward to partnering with the Ogemawahj Tribal Council in REC 4 to invite up to 60 teachers together in person to discuss curriculum and Language Teaching Certification at the end of June at Camp Couchiching just north of Rama.
- Our cultural competency pilot, Ezhi Kendmang Anishnaabe Naadziwin (EKAN), session #3, with York Region District School Board, was held on Georgina Island on May 10th. We will be sharing pilot projects in our First Nations including Learning as We Go, Aaniish Naa Gegii, Reach Ahead, and EKAN at our Spring Meeting which will be hybrid/in-person in Rama this year.

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT: WAABGON GAMIG

MAKING RIBBON SKIRTS AND RIBBON SHIRTS

All students at Waabgon Gamig are demonstrating pride in identity by creating their own ribbon skirts and shirts with community Elder, Susan Hoeg. As apart of the journey, students learned about their identity as shkiniigkwe and shkinwe connected to Mother the Earth and how we have the strength of our ancestors and future generations with us. These ribbon skirts and shirts hold spiritual and political significance.

They then connected to curriculum as students used measurement tools to measure their bodies, along with all the materials such as ribbon and cotton cloth. Students further explored financial literacy skills in budgeting to investigate costs associated with purchasing ribbon, thread, and cotton material.

Students discussed with families their personal or family colours then worked on procedural writing skills. In Art, students learned about complimentary colours and colour hues in the design process. Overall, students demonstrated pride in identity and were very eager to wear their skirts for drumming, teachings at the community teepee, and for school special events.



CULTURAL COOKING

Waabgon Gamig feels fortunate to have Elder, Mavis and community member, Alicia, supporting the learning and cooking of traditional and local recipes each month with all the grade 2 to grade 5 students. These students look forward to this hands-on learning opportunity as they learn about the importance of reclaiming our right to food sovereignty. Students learned the importance of local, seasonal, and traditional foods along with the harvesting protocols. Food is honoured as a gift from Creation and it is our responsibility to respect that relationship with gratitude. During ice fishing season, the students learned how to prepare and cook a Whitefish caught locally from a community member.

Each month, depending on the season, students prepare and learn about food sustainability. In the fall, students prepared and cooked Wild Rice Pudding, along with Moose stew in the winter and Maple popcorn balls with fresh maple syrup in the spring.

The school's greenhouse is often used for growing herbs and for growing the four sacred medicines. During the fall, students picked the apples from the school yard trees to make baked apples. The Cultural Cooking program prepares students for appreciating and respecting our relationship with plant and animal beings along with all of creation.





New Employees Update



Regional Education Council Coordinator for Region 2 Deanna Heyde

On May 24, 2022, the KEB welcomed a new employee to its growing team of professionals. Deanna Heyde joins the KEB as the newest Regional Education Council Coordinator for region 2. Deanna has several years of experience working in Indigenous education. She most recently worked as the Indigenous Lead for the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board. Deanna will work out of a remote home office in Sault Ste Marie and will support the educational needs and priorities of the six communities of REC 2.



Employment Opportunities



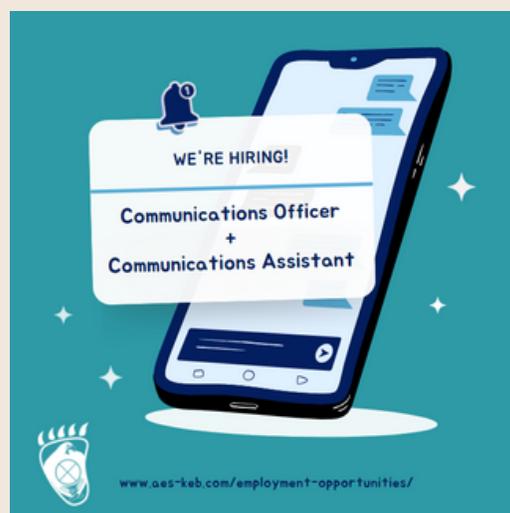
Communications Officer

The applications for the Communications Officer position will be accepted until Friday, June 3rd, 2022 at 12:00 pm.

Communications Assistant (one-year internship)

The applications for the Communications Assistant position will be accepted until filled.

Click [here](https://aes-keb.com/employment-opportunities/) to view the official job posting or visit <https://aes-keb.com/employment-opportunities/>



Negotiation Updates

Engagement related to the negotiations is ongoing with the First Nations. Meetings with the communities allow the negotiations team to hear directly from PFNs on local education needs and priorities. The PFN questionnaire is still being collected from PFNs that haven't completed them yet. The data being collected is being used for the negotiations and for the development of the AES funding formula. We are continuing to meet with each of the PFNs.



The KEB Board of Directors appointed additional representatives to the negotiations team to include First Nation representation in the negotiation process. Lise Kwekkeboom, of Chippewas of Rama First Nation in REC 4, and Nancy Allaire, of Nipissing First Nation in REC 3, joined the team in April. The Board of Directors is looking to appoint representatives from REC 1 and REC 2. Please contact Alicia Cameron, Anishinabek Education Services Manager, to bring forward any potential representative from these regions.



The most recent negotiations meeting with Canada was held on Tuesday, May 10, 2022. Issues that were discussed at the negotiations meeting included:

1. Updates to Canada on the AES fiscal renewal proposal;
2. Preview of the Additional Parties proposal; and
3. Scheduling legal reviews of the proposed text for the next fiscal agreement.
4. Planning for the next regularly-scheduled negotiations meeting in September, intended to be in-person.

If you have any questions or wish to further discuss the negotiations, please don't hesitate to contact Tracey O'Donnell at tracey.odonnell@a-e-s.ca or Helen Bobiwash at helen@helenbobiwashcpa.ca.



Admin Updates

The KEB was approved for four summer positions under the Canada Summer Jobs program for 2022. Please keep an eye out for four employment opportunities from the KEB in the coming weeks:

1. Accounting Assistant to support financial administration of the KEB head office.
2. Legal Assistant to support the negotiations with Canada for the next AES Fiscal Agreement.
3. Education Services Assistant to support the Summer Reach Ahead pilot program.
4. Education Services Assistant to support language and culture activities.

AES SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS PROGRAM

The application deadline for the AES Scholarship and Award Program is May 31, 2022. The program supports high-school aged youth from AES communities in two categories of interest: Academic Excellence and Nishnaabemwin Learning.

A third stream of the programs is dedicated to honouring an AES teacher or educator who demonstrates commitment to supporting AES youth on their educational journeys. To see the full scholarship and award details, please visit: <http://www.an7gc.ca/evening-of-excellence/>.

FINANCE UPDATES

AES Funding Formula:

Development of the AES funding formula is ongoing. The KEB Board of Directors is working with its contractor, Strategy Corp, to develop funding principles and the definition of remoteness for the AES funding formula. An update on the AES funding formula will be provided at the KEB's Annual General Meeting on June 8th.

PFN Funding Allocations:

At the end of the last fiscal year, the KEB received approval of funding for the PFNs, from Canada. The KEB is preparing letters to the PFNs that confirm the funding allocations in three areas of support:

1. Ventilation Funding to improve ventilation in education facilities
2. Indigenous Community Support Funding to cover additional COVID-19 costs
3. Junior Kindergarten – Grade 12 Refinement Funding

Following the receipt of the letters, the funds will be distributed to the PFNs from the KEB. Under Indigenous Services Canada programs, the funding is for the 2021/2022 fiscal year, but the PFNs have flexibility to spend the money in the 2022/2023 fiscal year.

Upcoming Events

- JUNE 3, 2022, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Language Gathering
- JUNE 6, 2022, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Special Education Virtual Session
- JUNE 7, 2022, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Special Education Virtual Session
- JUNE 8, 2022
Annual General Meeting
- JULY 4 - JULY 29
Ojibwe On-line Summer Learning Course (LNOAO)

- DATE TBA
Kweji-kinoomaagzidaa! "Let's Learn" (June)
- **Youth Gathering (July)**



To learn more about upcoming events at the AES and KEB, please follow the AES on Facebook (@AnishinabekEducation) or visit the website's event calendar: <https://aes-keb.com/calendar/>