

DIBAAJMOWIN

NOVEMBER

2022

A Message from the Director of Education

Boozhoo Indinawe maaganidog,

As we approach another change in the seasons and we prepare for the many activities that come with the holiday period, I am reminded of the importance of building relationships and finding unity of purpose in our collective work - "our children, our binoojiinhak."

In November, we came together at the 23 Participating First Nations Gathering in Baawaating. This gathering created opportunity for leadership discussions and direction that will guide our continued work in the areas of language and culture, fiscal negotiations with Canada, the development of customized funding formulas for the Anishinabek Education System, and communications.

The commitment of the Participating First Nations to continue the development of the Anishinabek Education System has been evident at every encounter. The staff and Board of the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body are grateful for this commitment, and we say miigwech for your ongoing support.

**Shining Turtle
E-naag-denj-get (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)

Language and Culture

The KEB's Language and Culture Lead, Zachary Beaudette, continues to develop language lessons related to seasonal themes through visual content and videos. In November, a video of the poem, "In Flanders Field" was shared in Anishinaabemowin (Nbisiing dialect). This is a great resource that can be utilized in classrooms, in our communities, and in our homes. The link to the video can be found here:

https://www.youtube.com/embed/Koj-yYTn_7o.

On December 2, the next session of the Kweji-Kinoomaagzidaa! Let's Learn series will be held online. This session will welcome Will Morin, who will be sharing his knowledge on Anishinaabe star world. Register for this intriguing session by scanning the QR code:



Data and Information Sharing

The first dataset from the Ministry of Education has been recently received by the KEB. The Data Management Officer, along with support from other KEB staff, will be preparing a summary report to be shared with the PFNs.

REMINDER!

Parents and students can reach out at any time to Tracy Hanzlik with questions, to get a copy of the consent forms, or for support with filling in the forms!

tracy.hanzlik@a-e-s.ca

Master Education Agreement Committees

Did you know there are several committees that support the work of the Master Education Agreement with the Province of Ontario?

The committees each have an area of focus, like Special Education, Data and Research, Racism, etc.

Representatives of the KEB, Ontario, the District School Boards and the Participating First Nations sit on the committees to provide guidance, expertise, and feedback on different projects and initiatives.

Starting in January 2023, we'll be showcasing a different committee, sharing a bit about each committee's representatives and their responsibilities. Stay tuned for the first committee!

★ MYAP Infographic

When it comes to providing updates about the work that is carried out through the MYAP, there is certainly a lot to share. On page 3 we shared a few of the projects that are in progress, but did you know there is a total of 14 projects in the MYAP?

We recently created a digital infographic to showcase all of the milestones of each project that were achieved from September 2021 through August 2022. Check out this great tool here:

<https://aes-keb.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Digitalized-MYAP-Public-Report-21-22-Infographic.pdf>

★ Rock Your Mocs

November 13 - 19 was Rock Your Mocs week and KEB staff definitely enjoyed taking part in this event. This was an opportunity to sport the traditional footwear of our ancestors and to celebrate the creativity and craftsmanship of Indigenous moccasins.

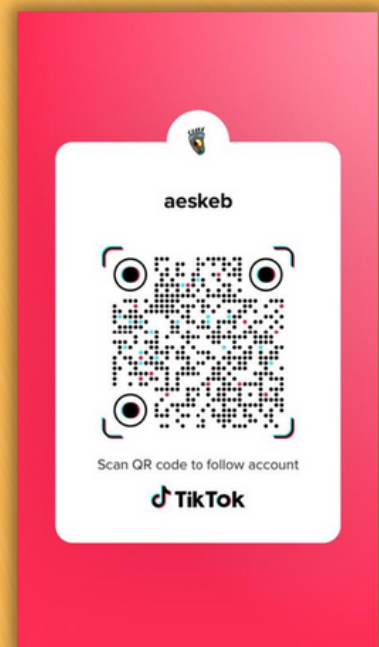
Shout out to all the amazing moccasin makers in our communities!



★ Halloween at the KEB



Check out our TikTok video of KEB staff on Halloween! Head to our TikTok account @ AESKEB and give us a follow!



★ New Employees Update

Welcome

Kyesha Fong

Human Resources Officer



Aanin, Boozhoo! My name is Kyesha Fong, and I am a proud member of Nipissing First Nation. Prior to joining the KEB team, I worked in Human Resources for Nipissing First Nation. I have a Bachelor of Science degree, with a minor in Business Administration from Nipissing University.

In completing my Business Administration minor, I became heavily interested in organizational behaviour and human resources. This led me to complete a Management Certificate in Human Resources from

Carleton University. I am currently pursuing my CHRP designation, as a commitment to lifelong learning in HR. In my free time, you can find me volunteering, beading, or spending time with my cat Sage. I also love road trips, exploring new places, and trying different foods. I'm looking forward to supporting the KEB team in this position and building strong working relationships with all those involved. Miigwech!

★ Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund

The Indigenous Youth Retreat (IYR) was a Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund event hosted by Nipissing First Nation, in partnership with Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board. Students who participated in this event were assigned different clans for the length of the retreat (North, East, South, and West). Each day, one of the clans held the responsibilities of lighting the sacred fire, opening smudge, opening prayer, blessing the water, offering the tobacco, and blessing the strawberries. Students in each clan all participated in these responsibilities together. Over the four days, the students learned about the clan system, the Seven Grandfather Teachings, the stages of life, traditional medicines, and the Creation Story. The students also had the opportunity to make drums and rattles as part of their teachings and activities.

Congratulations to everyone who contributed to this inspiring youth event!



★ Regional Education Council Highlights

Region 1

Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Education partnered with Anishinabek Employment & Training Services to host a Land-Based Education Conference November 10 and 11, 2022 in Thunder Bay. Over 170 people participated in the event, learning about Biigtigong's experience with returning to the land as the classroom. Participants at the conference learned about Biigtigong's moose camp, their fish hatcheries camp, and their manoomin harvesting program. The event was truly inspirational and demonstrated the priority that land-based learning is taking in many communities.



Region 2

We are excited and proud of the students attending St. Joseph Anishnabek School in Sheshegwaning First Nation. They are currently expanding on the Ojibwe language and reciting the Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe every morning after singing O Canada! The photo below is of our E-naag-denj-get, Shining Turtle, who recently had the opportunity to visit the school's Principal Robert Beaudin, and tour the classrooms and community. Miigwech and keep up the great work!



Region 3

Miss Northern Ontario (MNO), Grace Webb, was invited to visit with the students of Kikendawt Kinoomaadii Gamig, in her community of Dokis First Nation on October 20th. In June 2022, Grace was crowned as Miss North Ontario 2022, representing her home community as Miss Dokis First Nation. Grace spoke to Ms. Kaits' grade 2, 3, and 4 class about her Miss Northern Ontario experience. She also had the opportunity to reconnect with some of her mentors, family, and friends during her visit.

During the afternoon, Grace hosted the school's talent show. Students of Ms. Kaits' class were very brave and demonstrated their different talents. The students went on stage and showed the audience their baking skills, clay sculptures, and dance routines. "It made me so proud to see how excited all the students were to present in front of the audience," said Grace.



Dokis First Nation also held a ceremony for Indigenous Veterans on November 8, 2022. Chief Gerry Duquette Jr. opened the ceremony with a message honouring the community's veterans and all veterans. He then introduced the students of Kikendawt Kinoomaadii Gamig, who sang the National Anthem in Ojibwe! Students within the community were called upon to lay a wreath and salute fallen community members of Dokis First Nation. After a moment of silence, the Kikendawt Kinoomaadii Gamig students sang a Miigwech prayer to end the beautiful service. Miigwech to the students of Kikendawt Kinoomaadii Gamig for sharing their song and prayer with the entire community.



Region 4

In Region 4, the First Nations participate in honouring veterans during the month of November. Like others, Beausoleil First Nation invites local Legion representatives to its Remembrance Day ceremony. This year, ceremonies began with the Women's Drum Group. They were accompanied by Elder Neil Monague, who offered an opening prayer, and then the Women's Drum Group led a community walk from the administration building to the Cenotaph.

Two jingle dress dancers accompanied Beasoleil community member Janet Newdick, who laid the Silver Cross. The women sang an honour song while the wreaths were laid. Elementary school students sang O Canada in Anishinaabemowin, and guests were invited to a potluck meal provided by the community. Once all guests arrived at the Recreation Centre, the women honoured the men who remained seated with a men's honour song.



★ New Board Member Updates



Congratulations Ann Cada on joining the Board!

Ann is a member of Sheshegwaning First Nation. Ann comes with over 27 years of experience in education and brings with her ample wisdom and a heart for our communities, families, and children.

"Education is key" - Ann Cada, KEB Elder/Knowledge Keeper



Congratulations Carol Stevens on joining the Board!

Carol Stevens is a Magnetewan First Nation Band Member, who has worked as the Education Manager for the past 11 years. She brings understanding, devotion, and joy to those around her. Congratulations once again.

★ Sheshegwaning Fall Harvest Festival

St. Joseph's Anishnabek School in Sheshegwaning First Nation was the host of Sheshegwaning First Nation's Fall Harvest Festival on Tuesday, October 18, 2022. It was a cold and dreary day with light rain, yet the weather did not stop full participation of observers nearing a hundred people in attendance.

The many participants, including a bus load of students from Manitoulin Secondary School in M'Chigeeng First Nation, showed excitement and appreciation for the many presenters who provided an array of harvesting demonstrations, preparations and cooking. The Fall Harvest Festival was supported by Zhiibaahaasing First Nation, which offered a food booth with delicious homemade chili, scone, and cedar tea. The Fall Fair also included the baking expertise of the Grade 6, 7, & 8 classes with a variety of tasty muffins.

A few harvesting activities included:

- Knowledge Keeper, Joe Laford, and his assistants, Sheldon Shogga and Wes Sampson, harvested a deer and prepared the deer for skinning and for cooking (much of the harvested venison was distributed to families).
- Odawa Fish Farms provided fish from their cages with several farm-raised trout on display, and a few presented in a fileting technique.
- The staff of Odawa Fish Farms provided participants with information, educating them with knowledge of sustainable and environmentally-safe production of fish for food.
- Neil Debassige kept the crowd highly entertained and engaged with his knowledge-sharing of ethical and morally responsible harvesting.
- Neil engaged the audience by having students participate with a variety of animal calls, including moose, deer, elk, duck, goose, and wild turkey to the delight of the many (it also provided the participants with an appreciation of the many gifts provided by the Creator).

The community of Sheshegwaning and the community's Education Director and school principal, Robert Beaudin, were so appreciative of all participants and observers. They were especially appreciative of the presenters and knowledge keepers that made the Fall Harvest Festival a great success!



Wes Sampson and Knowledge Keeper Joe Laford work on harvested deer.



Odawa Fish Farm staff demonstrate fileting technique



Neil Debassige, Fuel the Fire, provides hunting knowledge



23 Participating First Nations Gathering



The 23 Participating First Nations Gathering took place on November 23, 2022 at the Quattro Hotel and Conference Centre in Baawaating (Sault Ste. Marie).

Twenty-two communities were in attendance to participate in important discussions, provide direction on various initiatives, and elect new directors to the KEB Board of Directors. In REC 2, the communities elected Ann Cada from Sheshegwaning First Nation. In REC 3, Carol Stevens of Magnetawan First Nation was elected. Both Ann and Carol will fill a term of election until June 2024.

The gathering was opened and closed by Elder Evelyn Stone and the beautiful drumming offered by Under the Pines.

Chi-miigwech to all the Participating First Nations for joining us and offering your continued support to the ongoing development of the Anishinabek Education System!

★ Community Visits

Our Data Management Officer, Tracy Hanzlik, was fortunate this past month to be able to travel to some beautiful country and visit a couple of our AES communities. "The weather was perfect for travelling and I really hope to go back to visit and see the wonderful things that are happening in our communities," said Tracy.

She was invited to Marathon High School where she was able to speak to some of our AES students about consents and the process of completing consents. "It was a fun time listening to the students talk and I was able to listen to many stories about the area."

She was also brought into Biigtigong where she was able to see the new school that is in the process of being built. So many exciting things coming out of Biigtigong.



★ AES Student Consent Forms

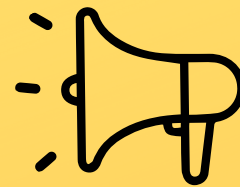
MIIGWECH to all who have completed the AES consent forms! We have received our first Data Set from Ontario. This is something that we have been waiting for. These data sets are the results of the collection of AES Consent forms. We are excited to be able to look at this data to find gaps within our education system. These are exciting times in the office and we hope that with the continued collection of consent forms we will be able to close more gaps and continue to do this good work in education for all our AES students. Please send in your consents. Lets keep this work moving forward.

Click the following link for more information or to get your form started today!



<https://aes-keb.com/consent-forms/>

★ Job Opportunities



Finance Manager

Deadline is Friday, December 16, 2022

Event Coordinator - Three (3) month contract (Region 4)

Deadline is Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Request for Proposals Longitude Research Project Proposal Writer

Deadline is December 13, 2022

For more information, please follow us on Facebook and other socials or visit our website's employment opportunities: <https://aes-keb.com/employment-opportunities/>



★ Upcoming Events

December 2, 2022

Kweji-kinoomaagzidaa! "Let's Learn" with Will Morin

December 8, 2022

Special Education virtual PD series - Dr. Layla Hall Session #2:
Supporting Students with Intellectual Disabilities

January 12, 2023

Special Education virtual PD series - Dr. Layla Hall Session #3:
Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder

February 9, 2023

Special Education virtual series - Dr. Layla Hall Session #4:
Supporting Students with In-Utero Drug and Alcohol Exposure

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/>