

DIBAAJMOWIN

May
2023

A Message from the KEB

Aanii kina wiya!

The end of another school year is upon us, and the promise of summer is on the minds of students everywhere. Odemin giizis (Strawberry Moon - June) will bring many celebrations to the Participating First Nations - from end-of-year trips to graduation ceremonies. The Board and staff of the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body (KEB) congratulate all AES youth who have persisted throughout the year in their academic and personal journeys. We also acknowledge the work of many educators and administrators who support Anishinabek students every day.

As we look forward to the KEB's Annual General Meeting on June 7, 2023, we hope to see many representatives of the Participating First Nations gathered in-person and online. We would like to wish all members of the Anishinabek family a wonderful Anishinaabe Giizhigad on June 6, 2023!



Last 2 months in Review

Acronym Guide

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

★ Multi-Year Action Plan (MYAP)

Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund

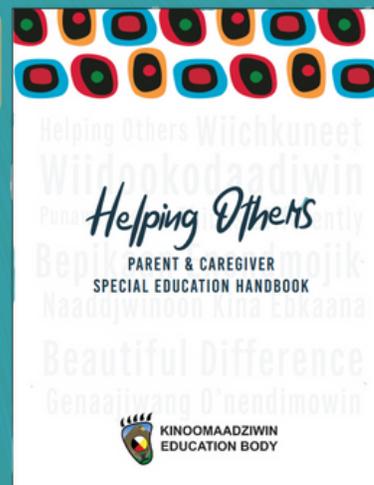
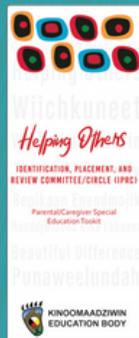
The Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund offered a proposal writing session and a budget session with Michael Jacobs of Cambium Indigenous Professional Services. These sessions were helpful, leading up to the deadline to apply to the Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund on May 12, 2023.

Screening will take place in May 2023 and First Nations should expect to receive letters by beginning of June 2023.

Special Education

The Special Education process can feel overwhelming. To help parents and caregivers navigate this process, the KEB has developed the AES Parent & Caregiver Special Education Handbook and pamphlets. Parents & caregivers are shown the step-by-step processes for the Individual Education Plan (IEP) and the Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC).

Special Education Parent/Caregiver Handbook & Pamphlets



These resources also offer parents & caregivers information on how they can support their children on their learning journey, transition planning, and other such topics. Participating First Nation communities can reach out to Colleen Sheriff, Special Education Coordinator via email at colleen.sheriff@a-e-s.ca to request copies of these resources.

Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum

What a memorable two days at the 8th annual Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum held in Baawaating! Participating First Nations, school boards and the Ministry of Education were gathered to network, share best practices, and to learn about ongoing work of the Master Education Agreement. In addition, inspiring and committed youth made history on April 4th and 5th by electing the first Youth Council of the Anishinabek Education System.

The forum was hosted by MC Brent Mooselegs Edwards and began with knowledge-sharing offered by our Elders, Knowledge Keepers, speakers, and Youth Ambassadors. We are very thankful for the participation of our First Nation and School Board representatives and the collaboration of our Ministry of Education partners. Chi-miigwech for everything you brought to the gathering!



★ Staff Introductions



Finance Manager

Tansi/Aanii! I would like to introduce myself to the Participating First Nations of the Anishinabek Education System. My name is Daryle Gardipy, originally from the Beardy's & Okemasis Cree Nation in Saskatchewan. I am the new Finance Manager for the KEB and I bring over 25 years of experience in the finance field. I have gained experience from the following organizations: Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre, Aboriginal Healing Foundation, Native Women's Association of Canada, Willow Cree Health Services, and Beardy's & Okemasis Cree Nation.

I am a second-generation Residential School Survivor. My passion has always been to work with, or for the betterment of, First Nations people. I was always encouraged to get an education from my late father; this passion is what has taken me to the organizations I have worked for throughout my career. When I am not working, I enjoy many activities such as reading, movies, dancing, and the arts.

Boozhoo, my name is Jacqueline Paquette, and I live in Nipigon, ON. I am a member of Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek. I am the proud mother of three amazing little boys. Before joining the KEB as the Master Education Agreement Executive Assistant, I worked as an Administrative Assistant within the Administration Building on my First Nation. I learned a lot of new and useful skills and techniques while working for my First Nation which I plan on using to be successful within my new position.

In my free time I enjoy hunting, fishing, spending time with family, and going on bush rides. I love to craft, bead and create regalia/moccasins, as well as attend the many pow wows held within our beautiful area.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to be joining the KEB and I look forward to working with the team!



Master Education Agreement Executive Assistant



Associate Director of Education

Amanda Mathias is excited to join the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body. She is a proud Anishinaabe Kwe, member of Temagami First Nation, and resident of North Bay. As an educator, Amanda's priority is in working towards equitable outcomes, student success, and wellbeing. She brings over 20 years of experience in education, including twelve years in leadership roles directly supporting Indigenous Education.

Her passion in education is advocacy, social justice, and systemic change. As a leader in Indigenous Education, she values teams, collaboration, co-creation, critical thinking, creativity, and kindness. Amanda is excited to work for and alongside First Nation communities and partners to work towards shared priorities and visions.

★ Employee Highlights

Employee Highlight

The KEB honoured the five-year service anniversary of Andrea Crawford, who started her journey with the organization on April 30, 2018.

As the Senior Operations Manager, Andrea is responsible for strategic communications, media relations, event planning, and marketing and promotions. She also oversees operational management of the KEB, among many other things.

Andrea fulfills her role with dedication, professionalism, and thoughtfulness. She is always thinking of her co-workers and those around her.

Chi-Miigwech Andrea for everything that you do!!!



★ MMIWG2S

May 5th was National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirited (MMIWG2S). Remote and head office staff from the KEB showed their support by wearing red. This day is a day to bring awareness and to recognize and honour the lost lives of Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirited.



★ Regional Education Council Highlights

Region 1

Long Lake #58 First Nation – Migizi Wazisin Elementary School

Long Lake #58 First Nation recently hosted a traditional goose harvest. The first two days of the harvest were led by Don Mcleod and Doug Bedwash, with the Grades 4 to 8 classrooms. The youth were given a tutorial on geese migration to give them knowledge on the timing of the spring harvest opportunity. For generations the Anishinaabe peoples relied on the goose harvest for sustenance. Knowing the behaviors of geese and the time to harvest them was crucial for survival.

Students were given knowledge on the behaviors of how the geese protect each other and their migration routes. They were also taught strategies on how to harvest them, using the wind to their advantage and using modern goose and duck calls to entice them closer.

The excitement of the successful harvest was evident when youth brought the geese to the school for further preparation. Students learned how to clean them the traditional way by plucking off feathers and singeing them over a fire, using poplar wood afterwards. More teaching on how to cut up the birds for cooking was given by the Education Director, Claire Onabigon. The feast was delicious!

The last day was led by Lanny Shebagabow and Doug Bedwash with the Grades 9 to 12 participants. The students were given teachings of our traditional harvest of the goose and goose behavior. After a successful day, the youth gained some knowledge and were excited to continue following our traditional ways. The goose hunt is an understanding of who we are as Anishinabek peoples, and our culture." – submitted by Doug Bedwash

"STUDENTS FROM THE GRADE 4/5 – 6/7/8 CLASS WENT OUT ON THE LAND TO LEARN HOW TO HUNT GEESE. ON THE TWO DAYS OF GEESE HUNTING, THE STUDENTS WERE TAUGHT HOW TO USE DUCK AND GEESE CALLERS. STUDENTS ALSO LEARNED HOW TO SNEAK UP AND GUT THE GEESE. WE WERE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO COME HOME WITH TWO GEESE. THE STUDENTS PLUCKED AND CLEANED THE GEESE ON THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 26, 2023."

- DONALD MCLEOD



Region 2

The REC 2 Spring Meeting was held on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at the Holiday Inn in Sudbury, Ontario. All six of the REC 2 First Nations were in attendance at the morning portion of the meeting, which a productive session focused on:

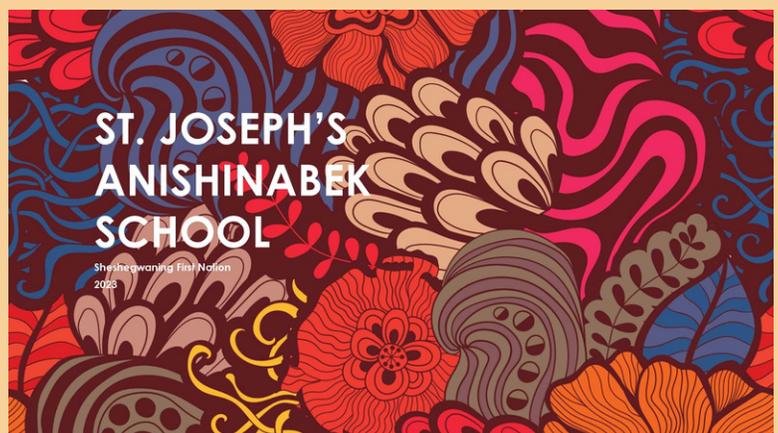
- Confirming regional priorities for 2023-2024;
- Appointing a regional representative to the KEB negotiations teams for the AES Financial Agreement;
- Identifying regional resource development fund projects; and
- Reviewing the regional selection process for the KEB Board of Directors.

REC 2 First Nations

Atikameksheng Anishnawbek
Aundeck Omni Kaning
First Nation
Michipicoten First Nation
Sheshegwaning First Nation
Whitefish River First Nation
Zhiibaahaasing First Nation

In the afternoon, four First Nations continued to meet with partnering school boards from the region, where Special Education, Student Transitions and a community highlight were topics on the agenda.

Sheshegwaning First Nation's Director of Education offered the group a look into St. Joseph's Anishinabek School. He spoke about some of the wonderful events hosted by the school and described some of the teaching methods implemented by school staff that are productive positive results for their students. Miigwech Robert!



Region 3

Dokis First Nation

Students at Kikendawt Kinoomaadii Gamig (KKG), in Dokis First Nation, have been learning about Indigenous Food Sovereignty in their grade 2/3/4 classroom. They have been focused on vegetables, fungi, and fish. Students have been finding out how they can help support their local community's food program.

They have experimented with growing styles to compare rates of growth among lettuce. They were able to examine how rapidly lettuce grows using a hydroponics system. While the lettuce grew at a much slower pace in soil. Students will transplant their vegetables to the community garden when weather permits.

Students have also had the opportunity to help the local fish population with their class hatchery. They have released roughly 500 Brook Trout into the local French River waterways. Children loved to watch the daily progression of the fish hatching from their eggs! Fungi is a new and fascinating addition to the classroom. Students and teachers are learning together to grow various fungi, while gaining knowledge about the benefits of fungi for soil and general health.

Throughout this journey, students also learned about how the Indian Act once created restrictions among Indigenous people who sustained their families through agriculture and farming. For examples, restrictions on technologies to assist in plant cultivation, such as hydroponics, LED grow lights, seeds, etc.



Region 4

Kinomaagewin -Eelakehkiimaat Weenjii Ahkuyung Teachings from the Land Conference April 2023

On April 11-13, 2023, REC 4 hosted a land-based learning conference at The Briars Resort and Spa in Jackson's Point, Ontario. Over 80 participants gathered to explore the development of partnerships to implement land-based learning activities in First Nations, District School Boards, and Conservancy Organizations. The focus of the event was to build partnerships through the sharing of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), language and the land, and successful land-based learning initiatives.

Indigenous Knowledge Keepers engaged with participants over three days. They led ceremony and were involved in workshops, presentations, and activities throughout the gathering. Activities outside the scheduled presentations and workshops included a game using the traditional form of lacrosse sticks, baaga'dowaan and a wonderful evening drum session with Rama youth. The positive and encouraging spirit of those around the drum was noted by all who took part.

Participants were surveyed before and after the conference. Many indicated they held a beginning to intermediate level of understanding about land-based learning. Also, a lot of participants were new to working or partnering with conservation organizations.

By the end of the gathering, the greatest outcome was that participants indicated having a greater level of understanding about land-based learning and land-based learning in education systems. The region is looking forward to discussing our next steps and supporting the partnership plans in our region to move forward.



★ Language and Culture

Nbisiing Secondary School hosted a mini Pow-wow on May 18, 2023. Invited guests included Elders, dancers, drummers – including Ottawa River Singers and Boys From the Bay, Chief and Council, and community members.

The Anishinabek Police Service provided lunch for everyone in honour of Police Week. The event was full of support and uplifted the spirits of students, as they head into the final weeks of the school year.



★ Upcoming Events



Series of Professional Development Sessions on Special Education

June 1, 2023
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Supporting Motor Skill Development for Academic and Daily Living Success

June 15, 2023
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. IEPs for School Staff: Creative Solutions for Individualizing Supports and Learning Goals

You can register for one or more of the following sessions and read about each session by scanning the QR code or clicking the link
<https://forms.office.com/1/ebn0881x>

The sessions are free and open to everyone.
For more information contact colleen.shelf@e-s.ca

June 1, 2023
Special Education Series with Surrey Place:
Supporting Motor Skill Development for
Academic and Daily Living Success

JOIN US FOR AN IN-PERSON MEETING

NAVIGATING THE PROVINCIAL EDUCATION SYSTEM

Share your best practices and learn from others

June 13, 2023 | 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM
Holiday Inn
1969 Regent Street, Sudbury, ON

- Education Service Agreements
- Special Education Topics
- Engagement Frameworks
- Indigenous Education Councils
- Additional topics to be determined

To register for in-person click the link <https://forms.office.com/r/153ggHakUw>
To register to attend virtually click the link <https://tinyurl.com/2edqar7b>

In-person availability is open to the first 23 people who register

For more information contact roslyn.bourassa@e-s.ca or nancy.d'onnofrio@e-s.ca

June 13, 2023
In-person navigating the provincial system

Series of Professional Development Sessions on Special Education

June 1, 2023
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Supporting Motor Skill Development for Academic and Daily Living Success

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June 15, 2023
Special Education Series with Surrey Place:
IEPs for School Staff: Creative solutions for individualizing
supports and learning goals

2nd Annual LANGUAGE GATHERING

Join us virtually for the 2nd annual Language Gathering featuring immersion story telling and breakout sessions with Anishinaabemowin language champions!

June 15, 2023
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Zoom

Presenters

- Terri Ewing, Oji
- Mary Oskewedjwan, Falcom McLeod
- Misty McGahey, Ojibwe to be announced.

Register by clicking the link or scanning the QR code
<https://forms.office.com/1/ebn0881x>

June 15, 2023
2nd Annual Virtual Language Gathering

To see all of our upcoming events at the AES and KEB, please follow us on Facebook or visit our website's event calendar:

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