

DIBAAJMOWIN

September
2023

A Message from the KEB

Aanii kina wiya!

Here we are at the start of another school year. We love thinking about all the students returning to classrooms, filling the school halls with the busy sound of laughter and learning. This fall, the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body is also quite busy with many upcoming events and new projects.

We look forward to meeting with Participating First Nations and District School Boards at the Regional Education Council Fall Meetings, and we are quickly approaching the next membership meeting on October 12, 2023. At each of these events, we always appreciate having the opportunity to connect with communities and to continue working towards our collective goal of supporting Anishinabek students.

As we move into Binaakwii Giizis (October), we hope everyone throughout the Anishinabek Education System enjoys a safe and successful hunting season!



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)

Language and Culture

The KEB Virtual Secondary School continues to support language learning opportunities for students across the AES. This year, there will be two sections of Ojibwe in Semester 1, and three sections of Ojibwe in Semester 2. We are grateful for the continued support from Ms. Paulette Toulouse, the virtual classroom teacher, and to the Ministry of Education for support with the Virtual Learning Environment.

Most importantly, we are grateful for the students who are participating in the courses, ensuring that Anishinaabemowin learning is a part of their educational journey!

Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund



The E-knoomaagyangwaa gi gekendaasji (Being Taught By the Knowledgeable Ones) Project is a partnership between Dokis First Nation and the Near North District School Board.

A student from a Near North District School Board attended a teaching and learning powwow led by the E-knoomaagyangwaa gi gekendaasji Coordinator.

This student was so inspired to learn how to drum and assisted the coordinator in organizing an Indigenous People's Day event at the E.W. Norman Public School in North Bay, ON.

Joint Master Education Agreement Committee

This September marks the completion of the second year of implementation of the 2021- 2024 Multi-Year Action Plan, which supports the Master Education Agreement. As we move into the third year of implementation, the committee will continue to monitor and provide input into the 14 projects. For anyone wanting to learn more about the Multi-Year Action Plan, please visit: <https://aes-keb.com/logic-model/>

AES Youth Council Gathering

On August 15 & 16, the KEB hosted the AES Youth Council Gathering in North Bay, ON. On the first day of the gathering, the youth listened to Ariel and Chanice, two representatives from the Ontario First Nation Young Peoples Council, who spoke about their youth council experiences. They also had the opportunity to learn about leadership and advocacy experiences from Nathalie Restoule. With the guidance of Knowledge Keeper, Perry McLeod-Shabogestic, the youth also had the opportunity to start making their own shakers.

On day two, the agenda consisted of continued conversation on vision planning and advocacy. This allowed the youth to practice their public speaking and advocacy skills. During the afternoon, the KEB held a scavenger hunt at the KEB head office where they learned historical facts about the AES and met with KEB staff. The youth ended their day finishing their shakers and learning about traditional medicines with Perry and Laurie McLeod-Shabogestic.



Youth Council Logo
Artwork created by Katya Serre,
Nipissing First Nation

Since being elected, the AES Youth Council has met four times over Zoom from April to July. Their next steps include creating their terms of reference and developing a workplan!

Regional Education Council Coordinator #2



Aanii! Boozhoo!

Bonnie Nahwegahbow n'dizhnikaaz, Wiigwaaskinga ndoonjibaa, Mi'ingan ndoodem. I am very excited to be joining the KEB team as the Regional Education Council Coordinator for Region 2. I have experience working in various capacities at all levels of education, and it is my passion to advocate for and ensure that our learners have access to community-based Anishinaabe Aadziwin in language, culture, and land-based learning opportunities. I have a BA in Indigenous Learning from Lakehead University and a B.Ed. from Queens University through the community-based Indigenous Teacher Education Program.

I was previously employed as the Cultural Educator at Shawanosowe School in Whitefish River First Nation where I had the opportunity and privilege to work with so many amazing students, families, and staff each day. In addition, I was able to develop great relationships with many amazing Elders, traditional Knowledge Teachers, and local organizations and partners who graciously shared so much with me. I am so grateful and so excited to be bringing this all to my new role. On a more personal note, my husband and I will be celebrating 20 years of marriage this fall and we are the proud parents of three children; two sons who will be attending university in the fall and one daughter who will be starting Grade 10 this year. I would be remiss if I also failed to mention our two canine family members; Ziggy and Mitty. I am excited and looking forward to the change that this new opportunity brings. I truly believe that relationships and connections are key to supporting our learners in education. As such, I look forward to meeting and creating those connections with everyone as the REC Coordinator for Region 2. Nahow! Miigwech!

Academic Support Person



wâciye misiwe awena. Aliyah Diamond nitišinihkâson. mōsoniy nitohcîn. mâka North Bay mekwac nitašihkân. Hello everyone. My name is Aliyah Diamond. I am from Moosonee. But I now live in North Bay. My spirit name is White Lily and I am Bear Clan. I am two-spirit and my pronouns are she/they. I am a member of Moose Cree First Nation and the Cree Nation of Waskaganish. I'm excited to be joining the KEB team as the Academic Support Person. I am so passionate about Indigenous empowerment through education and the revitalization of our languages and culture. Education has always been an important part of my life,

and has given me amazing opportunities, including travelling to Europe and New Zealand. I hold an Honours Bachelor of Indigenous Social Work degree from Laurentian University. I am also a graduate of the Cosmetic Management diploma program at Humber College. I gained experience in various roles from the following organizations: Indigenous Education & Engagement at Humber College, the School of Indigenous Relations at Laurentian University, Native Child & Family Services of Toronto, and Endaayaan Awejaa. In my personal time, some of my hobbies and passions include travel, reading, museums, music, art, beading, video games, movies/tv, trying new foods, and spending time with my family. I'm feeling very grateful for the opportunity to join the AES and KEB. I am looking forward to supporting positive change for the next seven generations to come! Mîkwec!

★ New Staff

Hello

Youth Communications Assistant



Aanii!

Ezaawizid memegowan kwe ndizhnikaaz Dokis First Nation ndoonjiba waabizheshi ndoodem Anishinaabe kwe ndow.

My name is Carley Lambert, I am from Dokis First Nation where I spend most of my time, but I also grew up in Hanmer, ON.

This past year I worked as the Communications Assistant with the KEB and I am glad to be back as the Youth Communications Assistant! The KEB has taught me so much, and I am excited to continue working with the Participating First Nations and help the youth have their voices heard within the AES!

In my free time I enjoy spending time with friends, playing hockey and basketball, or fishing with my brother in Dokis on the Upper French River.

You can also find me in my free time on the river helping my family's four generation business, Restoule J.C.A.R.L Construction!

Information Technology Assistant



Wachaye! Aaniin!

Asiniy waciy iskwao dnishnikasowin, moos sibi dosceen, kahkakew totem.

My name is Kaelyn Pizzale, I am from Moose Cree First Nation, but I currently reside in North Bay with my partner and family.

I am overly excited to be joining the KEB team as the IT Assistant. I have experience in working in an assistant role as a veterinary assistant at

The North Bay Animal Hospital. I am eager to learn and meet new people and I am looking forward to supporting the KEB over the next six months! In the future, I plan to return to Nipissing University to complete my undergraduate in Indigenous Studies. In my free time, you can find me beading, crocheting, baking, or in the trails with my partner and two dogs: River and Jozie. I enjoy spending quality time with my family and friends whether that entails family game night or a relaxing night watching a movie! Miigwech!

★ Staff and Board Gathering

KEB staff and board gathered in North Bay on September 26 & 27 for two days of collaboration and team building!

Staff worked in teams to collaborate on different work priorities, including Youth, Language and Culture, Data and Information, Communications, and Professional Development!

At the same time, the Board of Directors tackled a separate agenda focused on strategic planning, finances, and recruitment for the Director of Education position.



RECC's are the Bee's Knees



Val Michelutti from **Noojimo Health** taught the staff about Two-eyed seeing approach to lateral violence and kindness!



Let's get to know each other!
Staff told **Debwewinan Niizh miinwa Gii-nish-ke Bezhik** (two truths and a lie) to learn more about each other!



KEB staff raced to match the Anishinaabemowin word to the image!

★ Employee Spotlight

5 Years!!

Lisa Wabegijig

Regional Education Council Coordinator (REC 3)

The Kinoomaadziwin Education Body recently honoured the five-year service anniversary of Lisa Wabegijig, who started her journey with the organization on July 9, 2018.

Lisa brings an immense skill set to her role as an REC Coordinator. Her dedication to the First Nations in the region has been demonstrated through her work ethic, her passion for community, and her genuine desire to support student success. As the organization's longest serving REC Coordinator, Lisa is a mentor to her peers, and a valued member of the Anishinabek Education System team.

She is kind and compassionate in everything she takes on and we are so pleased to call her a colleague.

Congratulations Lisa!



★ Scholarship Awards

Educator Excellence Award Winners



Jake King: from Beausoleil First Nation. Jake has worked with the Simcoe Country District School Board since 2019 as a language teacher and is regularly found supporting language and culture events in his community.



Nicole Abotossaway: from Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation. She has spent many years in education roles in her community and Manitoulin Island. She is currently applying to complete her Ph.D. in the Philosophy in Education program.

Academic Achievement Scholarship



Alyssa Desmoulin-Luce: from Biigtigong Nishnaabeg with roots from Red Rock Indian Band and Nipigon. Alyssa plans to attend Lakehead University, pursuing Bachelors of Science and Nursing. After graduation, her hopes are to return to her home community to work as a nurse at the local hospital.



Brant Twance: Ojibway member of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg. Brant is now enrolled at Trent University for his Bachelor in Business Administration. He plans to return locally to the Marathon area once completed.



Dion Maness: from Aamjiwnaang First Nation. Dion is an avid volunteer in his community and enjoys expressing creativity through writing poems, listening to music, and drawing. Dion has a passion to help educate people and aspires to become a teacher.

★ Regional Education Council Highlights

Region 1



Spirit Bay students hit the ground running with their land-based programming with Parken Hardy Shebagabow. Following his teachings of giving away his first catch, Parken donated his moose to his school. A big thanks to community member Charlotte Thompson, who shared teachings and helped the teachers and students, cut, wrap, and package. All the meat was given to families.



Also pictured is a future gatherer, Nate Thompson who prized himself a goose. BZA is proud of Nate!

The students have also begun gathering medicines for the winter, and they will participate in making mukwamide and canning before they begin trapping until Christmas.

Region 2

Cultural Educator at Shawanosowe School Phase 2

Whitefish River First Nation – The cultural educator recently collaborated with teachers on lesson planning and created a bank of lesson plans and units specific to Shawanosowe School. They also worked collaboratively with the classroom teachers to plan events, land-based activities, trips, and cultural teachings.

“There were several students who had generally been struggling in math and, at times, resisting participating in math. With the kinesthetic learning with beading and coding, these students were highly engaged and most proud to show their work to teachers and their parents.”

Students were heard making statements such as *“this is not math, this is fun!”*

With the help of the Cultural Coordinator, students undertook a month-long project to design and sew their own ribbon skirts and shirts. One student who had difficulty focusing on any given task for more than a few minutes, was incredibly proud of his vest and regalia during the school’s powwow. Not only did he dance for most of the powwow, but he also spent an entire hour seated and drummed with the community’s drum group. This was a major accomplishment for the student!



Region 3

Kikendawt Kinoomaadii Gamig (KKG) School Mascot!

In July 2023, Dokis First Nation held a mascot contest in the community. The school has a logo, but they have never created their own symbol or colors – something that best represents the school. There were five entries in total and each entry was voted on anonymously. The entry of Sabe was the clear winner and school staff agreed that this best represented the children and school, as a whole. The artist is Alexander Dokis. He created a beautiful picture of the land inside Sabe. In Dokis, Sabe is known as part of the 7 grandfather teachings – honesty. The students of KKG are encouraged to nurture their knowledge and their land. As such, the artwork also included their slogan “Knowledge Protectors.” Congratulations to Alexander Dokis on winning the mascot contest. KKG is excited to show case its symbol in the community and on school trips!



Region 4

Munsee Delaware Language Updates and coming events!

This July, people from three Munsee speaking communities gathered in Princeton, New Jersey for four days of learning. As part of the original homelands, or Lunaapahkiing, communities coordinated the with Princeton University, and the Institute for Advanced Study. The event allowed space for Munsee language teachers from the communities to continue conversation about resource development, language revitalization and supporting language learners.

Over the four days, community members from Munsee-Delaware, Eelunaapeewi Lahkehwiit, and Stockbridge-Munsee (Wisconsin) were able to take part in language learning with connections to traditional cultural practices. Learners were able to take part in quill work, medicine gathering, gardening, canoeing, and cooking, all while using the Munsee language.



On September 30th, at the Art gallery of Windsor-Essex, there will be a gathering of artists who contributed to the artwork in “Nii Ndahloke (I work).” The book explores the work done by students at the Mount Elgin Residential School in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The artists are from Munsee Delaware and Eelunaapeewi Lahkehwiit.

In partnership with Learning Bird, history and language were documented through film at the Longwoods Conservation Area. Some of the work was filmed at an important Musee historical landmark, the Logan-Dolson cabin, as well as on trails in the park.



Attention all AES Students & Parents!!



Have you filled out your consent forms yet?
Your consent forms are important to the AES, no matter where you reside!

Contact your Director of Education at your First Nation for help, or the Data Management Officer at the KEB: tracy.hanzlik@a-e-s.ca.

You can also access the forms online, here:

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

School staff at secondary and elementary schools in the AES recently took part in training on the assignment of Ontario Education Numbers (OENs) for their students. The training is offered annually, and this year we welcomed 12 school staff in total.

Curious about what an OEN is?

The OEN is a unique numerical identifier assigned to students.

- It is a nine-digit number
- It is randomly-generated and assigned
- It is tied to each student's personal information and is retained for life

The OEN application, policies and procedures were designed to protect personal information. By law, the OEN is to be used only for educational purposes.

Why does the OEN matter to the AES?

When the KEB Student Consent Form is filled out, it is important to include the OEN on the form because it enables the sharing of data to the KEB, which helps inform the development of programs and resources for AES students.

★ Upcoming Events Continued

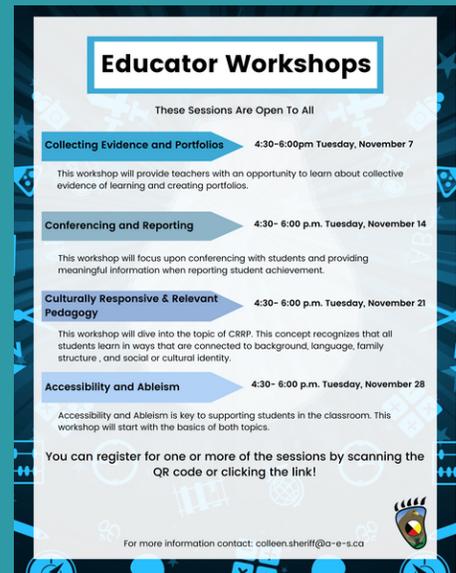
Keep an eye out for the poster below to register and listen in on the series of Educator workshops with Sarrah Beemer in November!

November 7, 2023 4:30 p.m. – 6:00p.m.
Educator Workshop: Collecting Evidence and Portfolios

November 14, 2023 4:30 p.m. – 6:00p.m.
Educator Workshops: Conferencing and Reporting

November 21, 2023 4:30 p.m. – 6:00p.m.
Educator Workshop: Culturally Responsive & Relevant Pedagogy

November 28, 2023 4:30 p.m. – 6:00p.m.
Educator Workshops: Accessibility and Ableism



**Kweji-
kinoomaagzidaa!**

"Let's Learn" is back! Join us for monthly sessions on language and culture with guest speakers! Session updates will be posted to our social media and website soon!

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/>