

DIBAAJ MOWIN

November
2023

A Message from the KEB

Boozhoo!

The changing of the seasons is a wonderful time to welcome new opportunities. As we prepare for the many activities that come with the holiday period, the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body is excited about some new changes to the organization, including the arrival of Nancy O'Donnell as the new Director of Education. Throughout the fall, we also welcomed several new team members who are eager to be part of the AES journey.

We've had extra opportunities to meet with each other in October and November - first at the 23 Participating First Nations Gathering in Sudbury, and then at the Indigenous Language Teachers Professional Learning Circle, and again at several community visits in each of the Regional Education Councils.

We appreciate all of the time that you have shared with us recently, and we look forward seeing each community's holiday celebrations leading into the new year.



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)

KEB Virtual Learning Environment

The KEB Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) is a web-based site where resources and tools developed by the KEB are being shared. Examples of the resources include:

Special Education Resources

- Professional Development recordings and presentations
- Early Years resources
- Ojibwe Language resources and recordings
- Education Service Agreements supporting documents



The VLE site is still in development, with new resources added regularly. To access the VLE, please use the link below and create your account!

<https://forms.office.com/r/EfXVCbQUBk>

Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund 2023-2024
Participating District School Boards

Joint Responsibility

All elements of the "fund" require that proposals must be submitted by an eligible Participating First Nation or by a group of eligible Participating First Nations, using the R2B Proposal Submission Template.

Joint proposals can be submitted by one or more eligible Participating First Nations and one or more District School Boards with Education Service Agreements with those First Nations.

Commitment of District School Boards

- School Boards submit a letter of support for any grant proposals.
- The letter must be signed by a person with the authority to legally bind the organization as a participant to the project.
- A contact person in the partnering organizations must be identified.
- Ongoing communication is integral to the success of the project.

Important Dates

- January 15, 2024: Interim Report Submitted
- August 15, 2024: Final Report Submitted

Contact: Tammy Desmoulin
ngfund@a-e-s.ca

Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund

Interim Report for the Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund recipients are due soon! Templates have gone out to communities with an invitation to meet with the Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund Coordinator, for support.

If your First Nation requires assistance with the Interim Report Template or if you wish to discuss your project, please reach out to Tammy Desmoulin at ngfund@a-e-s.ca.

★ Language Teachers Learning Circle

The KEB hosted the second Indigenous Language Teachers Professional Learning Circle on November 7, 2023, in Baawating. There were over 35 in-person participants at the event. Many participants brought language resources to share in small group break-out sessions, while others came to listen and share ideas.

It was nice to hear from both seasoned teachers and speakers, as well as new teachers. We shared many laughs and left with many ideas, and some wonderful feedback!



“When is the next one?”

“I am so glad I was able to come and take away a full bucket to move forward in my work.”

“Chi-miigwetch for the invite and for the welcome. I look forward to joining more sessions.”

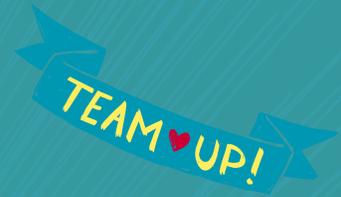
“Great workshop!! I'm excited for future events.”

“This is bringing healing and connection.”



Miigwech!

★ Language Strategy Team



**Language Strategy
Project Coordinator**

Greer Atkinson is an experienced project manager with history working with Indigenous organizations and First Nations in the Williams Treaty area. She has worked with communities at both an urban and First Nation level in the development and implementation of projects in education, Indigenous languages, governance, social well-being, and youth engagement. In her previous work with the Ogemawahj Tribal Council, Greer led the development of regional language initiatives, and the development and promotion of local First Nation curriculum resources for Ontario District School Boards in the region.

Boozhoo, Aanii. Hannah n'indizhnikaaz, Nipigon nindaa. Bawating n'doonjibaa.

I am very passionate about education, and I have been working in the field since I graduated university. Having the opportunity to be joining the KEB as a Regional Language Officer for REC 1 is a full circle moment for me. I have recently begun my own journey with Anishinaabemowin. Being closer to the language has given me a personal sense of how important it is. Community dialects of the language need to be cultivated, and our language learned and passed on. My goal is to engage and support all the REC 1 communities with the work already begun on language enrichment. What a gift it is to learn and feel pride in that learning! I look forward to working with you.



**Regional Language
Officer REC 1**



**Regional Language
Officer REC 2**

Aaniin! Lynn McGregor n'diznikaaz, Whitefish River n'doonjibaa. I am a member of the Whitefish River First Nation where I reside with my children. My experience in Education, Social Services Program Coordination, and Legal Support Services has given me extensive knowledge and understanding of the priority for revitalizing and retaining our Indigenous Language and Culture.

Building plans on successful language and cultural strategies in preserving, retaining, and supporting revitalization and reclamation of our language is the goal of our work. I look forward to working closely with your First Nation on community language priorities.



**Regional
Language
Officer
REC 3**

Aanii, Marie Chalykoff ndizhnikaaz, migizi ndoodem, Bawating mina Michipicoten ndoonjibaa. I currently reside in Garden Village, Nipissing First Nation, with my partner, who teaches Anishinaabemowin in local high schools, and my 3-year-old son. We are dedicated to share as much of the language with our son as we can so that he can grow up confident in learning and speaking Anishnaabemowin. I'm happy to be back at the KEB as the Regional Language Officer for REC 3. I want to combine my personal passion for committing to the language with my current role. I was previously the Strategic Initiatives Coordinator which helped me grow a lot as a person. Especially being connected to our communities all over Ontario. I am excited to partner with the communities of Region 3 to help support language priorities in the area.

In my education, I was always drawn to Anishinaabek topics and issues to better understand myself as an Anishinaabekwe, but also as a people to contribute to the well-being of the Anishinaabe community. At home I like to read books and comics, draw, and watch movies (comedies are my favourite). Miigwech!



**Regional
Language
Officer
REC 4**

Aaniin, boozhoo, Darla/Nimkii Kwe ndizhnikaaz. Mnjikaning First Nation ndoonjibaa. Giingoonh ndoodem. Anishnaabe kwe endaaw. I'm happy to share that I recently accepted the role of Regional Language Officer for REC 4. I look forward to using my skills and knowledge to help create a language strategy and language resources for all participating communities. I'm excited to be a part of such a big project that will not only connect us all together, but will move the strengthening of our language forward in a great way (once again). I have 10 years of experience working in the field of education as a Designated Early Childhood Educator/Registered Early Childhood Educator and Educational Assistant. Most recently, I proudly served Rama First Nation in helping to build an Anishnaabemowin immersion program, Waasa Enaabijig. It is still in its ground breaking roots but is thriving and showing that language revitalization is possible! I continue to work hard each and everyday strengthening my own Anishnaabemowin.

I look forward to the connections I will make on this new journey, and I honour the ones I already have. I'm truly passionate about our language and feel awakened as I see the revitalization happening. The time to save our language is now.

★ REC Fall Meetings

Each year the KEB holds the REC Fall Meetings in each of the four regions of the AES. This year, two days of meetings were hosted to enable the First Nation's regional representatives to gather on Day 1, and local District School Board representatives joined in on Day 2. The purpose of the meetings is to provide an opportunity to gather in tailored discussions focusing on system-level and community-level education priorities. Each region had successful meetings, with everyone showing a great amount of support and willingness to work together and move forward in support of our youth and their education. Miigwech!

Region 1



Region 3



Region 2



Region 4



★ New Staff

Welcome



Nancy is a member of Red Rock Indian Band and brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to her new role. She has been a valuable member of the KEB since 2020, initially as the Regional Education Council Coordinator for Region 1, and most recently serving as the Multi-Year Action Plan (MYAP) Manager.

With thirty years of experience in education, Nancy has developed skills in leadership, strategic planning, education program development, and curriculum writing. Much of her career has been dedicated to working with First Nation communities, which has deepened her understanding of the unique opportunities within Indigenous education. Nancy's diverse roles have included being a classroom teacher from JK to Grade 11, teaching adult learners, Indigenous Education Lead, and school principal. Throughout these positions, her primary focus has been supporting student success and well-being. Recently, Nancy completed her Master of Education degree, specializing in land-based learning. She eagerly anticipates the opportunity to contribute to the successful implementation of the five-year AES Strategic Plan. In her new role, Nancy will remain firmly committed to advancing Indigenous education, promoting language programming, and upholding the highest standards of Anishinabek education.

Director of Education



Hi! My name is Matthew Penasse and I'm from Nipissing First Nation. For most of my life, I was a competitive pair figure skater for Canada and Finland. During that time, I was fortunate enough to travel to many countries and experience many different cultures along the way. I'm very thankful for these opportunities that were given to me. I finished my career by competing at the World Championships in Helsinki, Finland as the first Indigenous person to do so. After my skating career, I decided to move back to my home community to be closer to family and establish a life.

Since then, I have had experience in finance working for Royal Bank of Canada and Niijaansinaanik Child and Family Services. I look forward to working with all of you and bringing the knowledge that I have learned to the KEB. When I'm not at work I enjoy spending time with my two dogs, playing sports, travelling, or something as simple as drinking my morning coffee and enjoying a scenic view.



Finance Clerk

★ Regional Education Council Highlights

Region 1

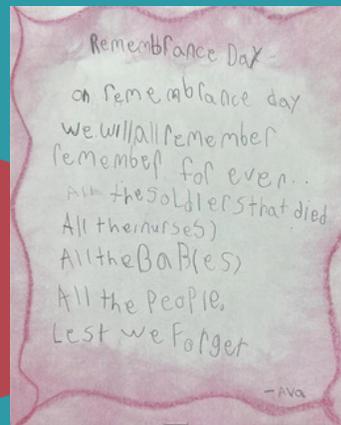


Long Lake #58 First Nation

Three grade 9 Physical Education class at Migizi Miigwanan Secondary School spent two days on the land trapping, as part of their history curriculum.

Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg

Netamisakomik Centre for Education remembers and honours ogitchidaa. A students art and poem in remembrance.



Biinjitiwaabiik Zaaging Anishinaabek

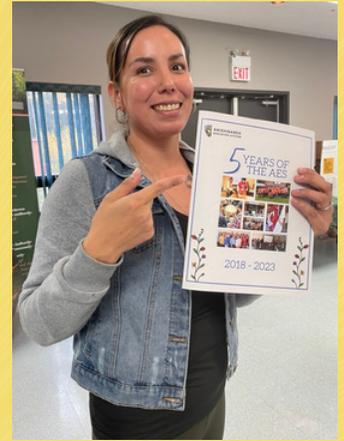
Spirit Bay School celebrates Halloween with students and costumes.



Biigtigong Nishnaabeg

Following their annual moose camp, the community honoured and gave thanks to those who hunted.

Region 2



The KEB is taking time during the fall months of 2023 to visit the PFNs. On Tuesday, October 17, 2023, Amanda Mathias (KEB Associate Director of Education), along with Helen Bobiwash (Fiscal Negotiator) and Bonnie Nahwegahbow (Region 2 Coordinator) were invited to set up an information booth at Sheshegwaning First Nation's Open House. They had the opportunity to meet community members, students and staff, and took time to answer questions and share about the past 5 years of the AES. Community members received some AES swag and the KEB staff learned more about the community from the other program displays. It was also a great opportunity for parents to complete the AES Student Consent Forms (see more on page 12).

Chi-Miigwech to KEB Board members Robert Beaudin and Ann Cada for the invitation and the wonderful introductions!



Aundeck Omni Kaning

Congratulations go out to Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation who held a "Meet 'n Greet," at their newly updated and renovated tutoring centre, Enji Kinomagziwad Gamik (Where You Teach Building). Families and students gathered and celebrated the rejuvenated and reactivated elementary tutoring program on Monday, November 20, 2023. Some of the updates include new outdoor signage, new carpets and furniture, a renovated washroom and a fresh coat of paint throughout. Students from Grades 1-8 are able to access tutoring assistance each week from Monday to Thursday.



Whitefish River First Nation

On November 1, 2023, students, staff and families of Shawanosowe School in Whitefish River First Nation gathered to remember and honour the spirits of their ancestors as they celebrated Taasewang (All Souls Day). Students made wreaths in class and on November 1, the school bus was loaded, and the students made the trip to the local cemeteries. Here, the students met with their families and were able to lay their wreaths, along with odemin, semaa and ziizibaakwadoons. Afterwards, they gathered for a traditional feast of giigoonh, manoomin, and kosimaan (squash).

This celebration is part of Shawanosowe School's Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund Project, "Honouring the Gifts Around Us." The project supports the opportunity for students, families and the school community to remember their ancestors and shared history by hosting ceremonies and community feasts, and by sharing knowledge, stories, practices and language between generations.



Zhiibaahaasing First Nation Moose Hunt

Danielle Nakoochee, Education Coordinator of Zhiibaahaasing First Nation, shared some photos of their recent community hunt. Participating community members stayed at the Richie Falls Resort from September 26-30, 2023. They were surprised to find blueberries so late in the season, however, the weather was warm. The hunt was successful, and the moose was taken to a butcher right away as it was so warm. The meat is available to community members. Congratulations to Zhiibaahaasing First Nation on a successful hunt!

Region 3



The KEB visited REC communities in October and November to provide an update on what the AES has achieved over the last five years. These meetings were attended by First Nation leadership, First Nation school staff, Education staff and community members.

Region 4



Inside the Orillia campus of Lakehead University, members of Beausoleil First Nation gathered on November 17-19, 2023, to love on their language. “Nimikwenmaanaanig Ndaankoobiganaang” brought together members of all ages. The intent of the event was to create space to speak and hear our language and to help people understand that no matter where they are, we are all still learning. Speakers from Rama First Nation joined. They had powerful words about song and about organizing to be effective at helping our language survive. Participants learned about Rama’s comprehensive language strategy. It’s impressive. Everyone left inspired and looking forward to a similar event during the second week of August.



**Showing up for
Sunrise Ceremony**



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.

CALL FOR ARTISTS



The KEB is calling on all artists of the PFNs to submit artwork that may be used for the 9th Annual Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum!

Artwork submissions must be accompanied by a completed entry form and must reflect the theme of the forum: "Leading in a Good Way."

ANISHINABEK EDUCATION SYSTEM

CALL FOR ARTISTS

2024 Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum Art Contest

The Kinooaadziwin Education Body is calling on all artists of the Participating First Nations to submit artwork that may be used for the 9th Annual Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum!

Artwork submissions must be accompanied by a completed entry form and must reflect the theme of the forum: "Leading in a Good Way."

Download the entry form and guidelines here!
<https://tinyurl.com/2p37mska>

First 10 submissions will receive a \$100 Visa gift card

Entries will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, December 8, 2023

Please submit your entries by email to:
Andrea Crawford
andrea.crawford@a-e-s.ca

Download the entry form and guidelines here! <https://tinyurl.com/2p37mska>

★ Upcoming Events

Educator Workshops

These Sessions Are Open To All

- Conferencing and Reporting** 4:30- 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 14
This workshop will focus upon conferencing with students and providing meaningful information when reporting student achievement.
- Culturally Responsive & Relevant Pedagogy** 4:30- 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 21
This workshop will delve into the topic of CRP. This concept recognizes that all students learn in ways that are connected to background, language, family structure, and social or cultural identity.
- Accessibility and Ableism** 4:30- 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 28
Accessibility and Ableism is key to supporting students in the classroom. This workshop will start with the basics of both topics.
- Providing Feedback** 4:30- 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 5
This workshop will help teachers learn how to support students from a strength-based perspective.

You can register for one or more of the sessions by scanning the QR code or clicking the link!
<https://forms.office.com/r/g047QbtNse>

For more information contact: colleen.sheff@a-e-s.ca

Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 4:30-6:00pm
Educator Workshop – Providing Feedback

This workshop will help teachers learn how to support students from a strength-based perspective.

**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 out 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/>