

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Red Rock Indian Band Votes “Yes” — 24th Nation to Join the Anishinabek Education System

The KinooMaadziwin Education Body (KEB) is proud to formally announce that Red Rock Indian Band has successfully ratified the Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement (ANEA), becoming the 24th First Nation to join the Anishinabek Education System (AES). We warmly welcome the Red Rock Indian Band to the AES and look forward to a strong partnership in advancing Anishinabek education.

The Anishinabek Education System is the only self-governing education system in Ontario, recognized through the Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement (ANEA) signed by the Government of Canada and 23 First Nations, on August 16, 2017.

Along with the ANEA, the First Nations signed a complementary agreement with the Government of Ontario, the Master Education Agreement. The agreement establishes a new relationship between the Parties, focused on student success and well-being for Anishinabek students of the Anishinabek Education System (AES) and the provincially funded education system.

The KinooMaadziwin Education Body was established as the central administrative structure for the AES. During the first five years of implementation (2018-2023), a pause was placed on adding new signatories to allow time for the KEB to establish operational supports, build system capacity, and strengthen relationships among First Nations and education partners.

First Nations in Ontario may now join the AES through a formal ratification process. Red Rock Indian Band began the process by requesting an initial presentation to their Chief and Council on what it means to join the AES. A community presentation followed, where members of the First Nation were provided with information on the AES.

Red Rock Indian Band passed a Band Council Resolution to hold a ratification vote, with a successful “yes” vote recently completed. The KEB shared the exciting news with Chiefs and delegates at its Annual General Meeting on August 21st, 2025.

The KEB respectfully recognizes the efforts of Kelly Paakkuniainen- baa, for his passion and dedication in supporting Red Rock Indian Band throughout this process. Kelly was instrumental in connecting Red Rock Indian Band leadership, and Red Rock Indian Band’s education team with Biigtigong Nishnaabeg, a current member of the AES, to share insights and experiences.

We look forward to working collaboratively with Red Rock Indian Band and welcome them to the AES, as we work toward our collective mission:

Ni-wiiji'aamin ni-gikinoo'amaaganaanig ji-bimosewaad, Anishinaabewaadiziwin-gikendaasowin miikana

We support our students in following an Anishinaabe Aadziwin learning path.



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