



DIBAAJMOWIN

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Message from the Director



Boozhoo/Aanii gakina wiya, Koolamalsihmwa,

The 2025-2026 school year is well underway, and we look forward to continuing to work together to support Anishinabek student success and bimaadziwin. This September, the Kinoomadziwin Education Body (KEB) met with District School Boards and the First Nations at the annual Gathering of Colleagues to identify education priorities that support First Nation students.

We were also grateful to host the Fall Staff and Board Gathering in Thunder Bay, ON, during September. We identified goals for the year to align with the AES Strategic plan, participated in team building activities, and identified areas of improvement for the KEB. This was a great way to begin the new school year! It is exciting to see the Professional Language Learning Circles that are being hosted this fall in all four regions of the AES. These learning circles create opportunities for educators to share language resources and support one another in the important role of ensuring Anishinabek students have access to language programming.

Miigwech, Anushiik, to everyone who has prepared for and welcomed students into their learning spaces across the AES this fall.

-Nancy O'Donnell, Director of Education

Regional Education Council Highlights



Regional Education Council 1

Eleven Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg students recently took part in the Reach Ahead Credit trip to Ottawa, and it was a huge success. Two students had graduated in June and the other nine worked toward and earned the NAC20 credit! The group had an amazing time exploring the capital city with a packed itinerary that blended learning, culture, and fun.

Some of the highlights were visiting the Indigenous art exhibit at the National Gallery, experiencing the beauty of Modahoki Indigenous Farm, and being wowed by the Cirque du Soleil show. It was a great chance for students to learn in a new environment, connect with Indigenous culture, and enjoy a memorable adventure together.

Regional Education Council 2

On Friday, May 30, 2025, Shawanosowe School in Whitefish River First Nation held their annual school powwow. This event was held at the community soccer field where students, staff, families, and guests all had an opportunity to dance, sing and celebrate. The powwow closed off with a fish feast for everyone in attendance.

After the feast, students and staff heard from special guest, Anton Treuer with his visit to the Shawanosowe as a part of the 2 day Mino Bimaadziwin Safety Summit. During his time at the school, Anton shared a story about Aundeck and inspired everyone in language learning. He talked about how learning languages is fun and that our language (Anishinaabemowin) is a great opportunity to share with, and give to other people.



Regional Education Council Highlights

Regional Education Council 3

Moose Deer Point First Nation

This past summer, students worked in different positions within the community. The First Nation employed 5 high school students and 1 post secondary. It's back to the books, and enrollment for 2025-2026 is: Elementary 23; Secondary 7; and Post Secondary 15.

There are several support systems in place for students of all ages. The Binoojii House runs a school age program and is open every PD day, snow day and for after school programming. This past summer the program ran a unique summer camp that was technology free, no computers, no tablets.



School Age Program

Our School Age Program is open every PD Day, Snow Day & for after school program. 15 Spaces. PLEASE REGISTER TODAY

PA Days: Mon - Thurs After school: 3:45-6:30PM NO AFTER SCHOOL FRIDAYS Fri Sept 26

School Age Program 5 Years - 12 years

INFANT	TODDLER	PRESCHOOL
18 Months - 18 Months	18 Months - 2 1/2 Years	2 1/2 Years - 5 years
3 Spaces	5 Spaces	8 Spaces

For the 2025-2026 school year, Moose Deer is partnering with Near North District School Board delivering the Gikenjgen Miikaan. This program was designed to enhance engagement of students, families and the community to support student success and well being; increase knowledge and understanding of Anishinabe histories, culture, language.

Regional Education Council 4

Resources that reflect the unique histories, languages, and cultures of our communities ensure that the curriculum is relevant. Taking control of our narrative and educational process is empowering. When we can ensure that approaches to teaching about our people integrate spiritual, emotional, physical and intellectual learning we are doing the work of objective one of our KEB Strategic Plan, incorporating Anishinaabe Aadziwin and Anishinaabe Bimaadziwin into our education systems.

Region 4 will be working with consultants to research and summarize existing resources in our region and to develop a suite of materials through a comprehensive community-based project. The resulting materials will be shared through the Anishinabek Education System.

Additionally, we will be working to ensure that Munsee Delaware Nation and Aamjiwnaang First Nation have the chance to develop their own community profile books for sharing with partner schools and beyond. We are excited to share our results in coming issues.



Language Coordinator Updates



Hannah O'donnell, Eko Bezhig
Dibaakiwin
Anishinaabemowin Anokiit
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Region 1 Language Updates

The Anishinaabemowin Niigaaniwag committee has actioned creating bi-annual online language bowls that link up with the in-person BZA language bowl. The first one is happening November 7th via teams from 1:30-3:00pm.

The Anishinaabemowin in the Classroom initiative is another one that has been actioned by the Anishinaabemowin Niigaaniwag Committee. Classrooms will be observed for 3 days online or in-person and common words/phrases said by students and teachers will be recorded. Community language speakers will be recruited to translate. Resources will be created for the teachers & students to help them use the translated words/phrases in their daily classroom lives.

Region 2 Language Updates

Over the past two months, we have been working alongside Region 2 communities to strengthen Anishinaabemowin learning and connection. Together with Whitefish River, Michipicoten, Sheshegwaning, Zhiibaahaasing, Aundeck Omni Kaning, and Atikameksheng, we've supported Family Well-Being programs, youth retreats, and cultural gatherings that keep the language alive in everyday life. These experiences remind us that Anishinaabemowin flourishes where people gather—through storytelling, ceremony, and land-based learning that connect families and generations.

In September, we hosted our REC 2 Professional Learning Circle at Osawamick G'tigaaning, where educators took part in an immersive language experience and shared best practices for teaching and revitalizing Anishinaabemowin. The day reinforced that collaboration and relationship-building are at the heart of language renewal in both classrooms and communities.

Looking ahead, we are preparing to launch the Region 2 Language Committee and begin a recording project to capture the voices and knowledge of first-language speakers for future generations and new learners. Miigwech to everyone who continues to help our language grow each day.



Lynn McGregor
Eko Niizhing Dibaakiwin
Anishinaabemowin Anokiit
Regional Education Council 2
lynn.mcgregor@a-e-s.ca

Language Coordinator Updates

Region 3 Language Updates



Jacinta Shawanda
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Anishinaabemowin Anokiit
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Aanii, (Greetings),
Boozhoo! (to you who also comes from Nanaboozhoo!)
Niin maaba (I am)
Eko Nsing Diibaakiwin (Region 3)
Anishinaabemowin Anokiit. (Language Coordinator.)
Jacinta Shawanda
Is my name. (indishinaakaas.)

For August and September, I focused on helping with AES Summer Youth Gathering, Region 1 Book Bag Project and establishing working relationships with the Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund's Anishinaabemowin Working Group. I have also been focusing on planning the Region 3 Fall Professional Learning Circle on Oct.20th, 2025. This is a Professional Development opportunity open to all Anishinaabemowin Language teachers, from ECE, K-12, and Adult Ojibwe Language Teachers in all KEB Regions. The event features Cynthia Wemigwans' Chunking Method and various Ojibwe Language games. Language Teachers are also requested to share their best practices with all participants. Let's enjoy teaching and learning together!
<https://forms.office.com/r/xyJsu88DFS>

Region 4 Language Updates

Mno Dagwaage kina wiya, (Happy Fall Everyone) It was a busy summer for REC 4. Community engagement sessions continue to happen. I look forward to travelling to Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation on October 22nd. I attended the Youth Gathering with AES Youth council at Spirit Point. I also went to the AGM. We had a beautiful staff gathering in Thunder Bay!

In rec 4 we are looking forward to:
Our Fall gathering happening October 8th-9th in Chimnissing First Nation. The rec 4 Professional Learning Circle happening on November 10th.



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Eko Niiwing Dibaakiwin
Anishinaabemowin Anokiit
Regional Education Council 4
darla.stinson@a-e-s.ca

Language Coordinator Updates



Velma Noah Nichols
Lunaapeew Alohkaákan
Lunaapeew Language
Coordinator
velma.noah-nicholas@a-e-s.ca

Region 4 Language Update - Lunaapeew

Munsee language surveys have been completed, and a community engagement session is scheduled for October 4, 2025, to share the survey results, present the 10-year language strategy, and outline the next steps.

On October 10th, a Professional Learning Community (PLC) session is scheduled to take place at the Eelunaapeewi Lahkeewiit Early Learning Centre. The Lunaapeew Language High School course has been completed and will be posted soon; students are being invited to apply, and an instructor is being sought to deliver the course. Additionally, a 12-week language class began on September 8 and will run until November 24, with invitations extended to all Lunaapeew communities in Ontario.

Upcoming Professional Learning Circle Events

**NEW DATE**

KEB REGION 3

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CIRCLE

Join us for a full day of networking, learning and sharing with other Ojibwe language teachers and first language speakers.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20TH, 2025

HOLIDAY INN SUDBURY,
1696 REGENT STREET,
SUDBURY, ON

REGISTER NOW

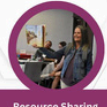
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For more information:
Jacinta Shawanda,
REC3 Anishinaabemowin Anokiiit
jacinta.shawanda@a-e-s.ca / 249-878-4023



Cynthia Wemigwans
Presenting the "Chunking Method"



Resource Sharing
Teachers! Bring your favorite language learning resources and exchange best practices.



Anishinaabemowin Games
Guaranteed Fun and Laughter for students



**Gikinoo'amaagedaa
Anishinaabemowin**

Let's Teach Ojibwe

The Simcoe County District School Board, Anishinabek Education System, and Ogemawahj Tribal Council are collaborating to offer a professional development session designed to support regional leads, educators, superintendents, and administrators involved in indigenous language instruction.

Join us for a collaborative discussion focused on effective program delivery and logistical considerations in offering language programs in schools. This session aims to strengthen cross-board collaboration and promote shared learning.

Nov. 10, 2025
8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Simcoe County District School Board
1170 Highway 26, Midhurst, ON

Register to attend at tinyurl.com/LetsTeachOjibwe

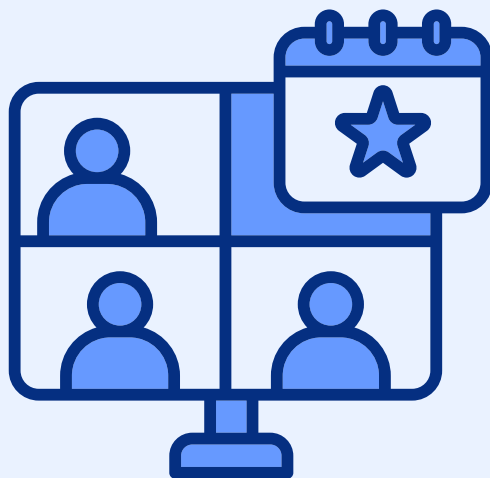


Gathering of Colleagues

On September 10, 2025 members of the Participating First Nations, partnering District School Boards, Ministry of Education representatives and KEB staff met virtually for the annual Gathering of Colleagues event.

This event was a great way to welcome everyone back for the new school year, provide an overview of the history of the AES and Master Education Agreement, share highlights of some of the work happening throughout the AES, hear about learning opportunities being developed in the partnering District School Boards and look for areas for further collaboration.

Together, we learned about the development of a special education communication protocol, the impact of EKAN cultural competency training and a summary of Board Action Plan trends.



Multi-Year Action Plan Updates



Youth Initiatives:

In Youth Initiatives, programming and supports were delivered over the summer to further engage youth across the Anishinabek Nation. The Youth Speaker Series sessions ran through the summer months, providing participants with opportunities to learn from guest speakers on topics that encouraged leadership, personal development and cultural identity. In addition, a back-to-school initiative went out to all participating first nations to “Pop” back into an awesome school year.



Attention all AES Parents and Students!



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

**Contact the Education Data Analyst at the KEB:
charity.caluori@a-e-s.ca or your Education Department
for a copy of the forms.**

You can also access the forms online at the link below or scan the QR code:

[Consent Forms - Kinoomaadziwin Education Body](#)



Virtual Secondary School

February

- The Ojibwe sound chart/ sound of the language
- Introduction to common words and weather words in Anishinaabemowin
- Personal introductions

February-June

While learning the language the students also focused on teachings about Treaties, Anishinaabe teachings and history from the Mishomis book, along with the 7 Grandfather Teachings!

NATIVE LANGUAGE LNOAO LEVEL 1



**CHECK OUT WHAT
THE LNOAO-01 CLASS
HAS DONE THIS
SEMESTER!**

March

- Continuation of the sound of the language
- Numbers 1-50
- 13 Moons and the Four Seasons

April

- Continuation on the sound of the language
- Vocabulary on emotions
- Sugar bush
- Earth Day Vocabulary
- Noun sets for practice and familiarity

May

- Continuation of the sound of the language
- Simple sentences with nouns
- Introduction to verbs

June

- Continuation on the sound of the language
- Animals
- Indigenous History Month - Celebrating Our Resilience!

AES Youth Council



Over the summer months, the Youth Council successfully hosted the Youth Summer Gathering at Spirit Point in Trout Creek, ON. The council created a safe place for youth with cultural learning, leadership development, and connection among youth participants. The council is looking forward and preparing for their partnership with York District School Board on the Youth Leadership Conference taking place in April 2026. In addition, the Council has expressed interest in hosting a Youth Spring and Fall Gatherings for 2026, focusing on sugar bush teachings in the spring and moose hide tanning in the fall.



CALL OUT FOR YOUTH ARTISTS!

The AES Youth Council is looking for
Indigenous youth (ages up to 25) to submit
their art to be added to our 2026 year calendar!

\$200.00 prizes for the 12 youth selected to be in the
calendar!

**Deadline is October 31st, 2025
@4:30PM!**

Art pieces can be paintings, drawings, digital
art, and/or photography.

PLEASE SEND ALL SUBMISSIONS TO:

Kaelyn Pizzale
Youth Initiatives Coordinator
Kaelyn.pizzale@a-e-s.ca

(OPEN TO ALL INDIGENOUS, METIS & INUIT YOUTH IN ONTARIO)

2025 Annual General Meeting

On Thursday, August 21st, the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body (KEB) held its Annual General Meeting, bringing together leadership, community members, and supporters for a meaningful day of governance, culture, and education.

Hosted by the welcoming community of Magnetawan First Nation, the event featured important decision-making sessions, as well as vibrant drumming and dancing that reflected the rich cultural heritage of our people.

A highlight of the day was the formal announcement that Red Rock Indian Band would be joining the Anishinabek Education System as the 24th Participating First Nation—a momentous step forward in our collective journey toward First Nations-led education. This exciting news was met with enthusiasm and pride, reinforcing the continued growth and strength of the KEB network.

The contributions of Magnetawan First Nation, from their warm hospitality to their active involvement throughout the day, were deeply appreciated. Chi-Miigwech to everyone who participated and supported this important gathering. Baa maa pii—until we meet again.



Staff and Board Gathering



Our team and Board of Directors had an amazing and meaningful experience at the Staff and Board Gathering held in Thunder Bay on September 17th–18th! It was a valuable opportunity to come together in person, reconnect, and engage in thoughtful, in-depth discussions about the AES 5-Year Strategic Plan. These conversations allowed us to reflect on our shared goals and identify ways to strengthen our internal communications—an especially important focus given the increasing number of staff working remotely.

Beyond the strategic work, we also took time to celebrate and honour our culture through a variety of hands-on activities that brought everyone closer together. Participants had the chance to make Bear Grease (minigan), practice traditional beadwork, and learn about the importance and use of traditional medicines. These experiences grounded our gathering in cultural teachings and reminded us of the deep roots that guide our work.

Chi-miigwech to our dedicated Board of Directors and the entire Kinoomaadziwin Education Body team for your presence, your contributions, and your commitment to making this gathering both productive and unforgettable.



Minister of Education Visit



The Kinoomaadziwin Education Body (KEB) was honoured to welcome the Honourable Minister of Education, Paul Calandra, to our head office located in Nipissing First Nation. To mark the significance of the visit, the Minister and his team were greeted with a powerful visual display of our 24 Participating First Nation flags proudly lining the entryway. Following this warm welcome, the delegation was given a tour of the KEB office and treated to an opening drum song that set a respectful and grounding tone for the day.



A key highlight of the visit was a roundtable discussion focused on important Anishinabek education priorities. This conversation provided an opportunity to share critical updates, challenges, and goals with the Minister, strengthening the foundation for ongoing collaboration and support. We extend a heartfelt *chi-miigwech/anushiik* to our Board of Director members Ann Cada, Daniel Stevens, and Cheryl Miller-Martin for their presence and leadership during the visit. A sincere *chi-miigwech* as well to Tracey O'Donnell, KEB Legal Counsel and Board Advisor, for her valued support in guiding the roundtable discussions.



We also acknowledge and thank Kristin Kewaquom, KEB Education and Program Services Manager, for skillfully facilitating the visit, and Deb Mishibinijima, KEB Communications Officer, for offering beautiful opening and closing drum songs that framed the day with cultural pride and spirit. Lastly, we thank Tracy Paul, KEB Executive Administrative Assistant, for her exceptional efforts in hosting and organizing the day's events.

The visit served as a meaningful step forward in building stronger partnerships for the future of Anishinabek education. We look forward to continuing this important work together.

Welcome New KEB Staff



Welcome Sonya! Fiscal Analyst

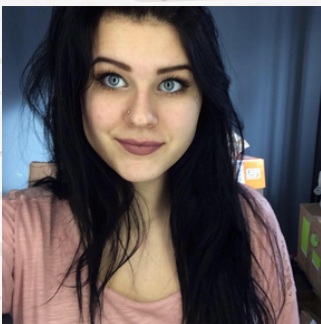
My name is Sonya Raffin and I grew up on Scugog Island, alongside the Mississauga First Nations. I moved to North Bay 4 years ago and I am enjoying the incredible beauty in the lakes, granite and quartz rocks in the north. I am so grateful to have this opportunity to work for KEB as a Fiscal Analyst.

I have been working in the Finance industry for over 20 years, working in the lending, automotive, construction and not for profit industries. I have also worked with various Boards from taking minutes, to presenting financial statements and addressing the current state of finances of organizations. Having worked in various roles, I acquired the skills and knowledge to manage full cycle accounting processes, ensuring all requirements were met for external auditors to complete annual reviews and financial statements.

I have been trained and won a global award using the process improvement tool, Kaizen.

I enjoy working with numbers and using excel, so when the opportunity presented itself to work with KEB, it was a great chance for me to use these skills and be able to work with teams of negotiators to have such meaningful impact on the education body.

When I am not working, I am either spending time with family and friends which includes cheering for the Toronto Maple Leafs and Toronto Blue Jays. I am an avid gardener, always finding an excuse to tend to my yard while listening to music. I have also taken up kayaking since living in North Bay and cannot get out enough of it.



Welcome Jessica! Communications Officer

My name is Jessica Paul, and I am a proud member of Fort William First Nation. I grew up in Thunder Bay, later moved to Peterborough to pursue my studies, and will soon be relocating to North Bay to be closer to my family while working at the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body (KEB) head office.

I've had the privilege of working with the KEB in several roles — first as a summer intern, then as the Kendimookiiwin Ewiiijigaabwitaaged (Communications Assistant) over the past year. These experiences gave me the opportunity to learn from an inspiring team and further develop my skills. I am truly honored to now step into the role of Kendimookiiwin Bemiiikang (Communications Officer), where I hope to continue strengthening connections and sharing stories that reflect the heart of our work.

I hold an Ontario College Advanced Diploma in Graphic Design & Visual Communications from Fleming College. My passion lies in the creative arts, particularly in finding ways to weave design into storytelling that reflects and celebrates Indigenous culture and heritage.

Outside of work, I love spending time outdoors with my partner and our dog, often exploring nature trails. I'm also an avid reader, always with a new book in hand, and I enjoy staying active — usually with my favorite playlist blasting in the background.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Lunch & Learn with Dr Christopher Mushquash

October 23, 2025

Online Event

Contact:

Danya.Skworchins

ki@a-e-s.ca

“Sharing for Success” Education Conference

October 28, 2025

Thunder Bay

Contact:

Marlo.Beaucage@a-e-s.ca



UPCOMING EVENTS

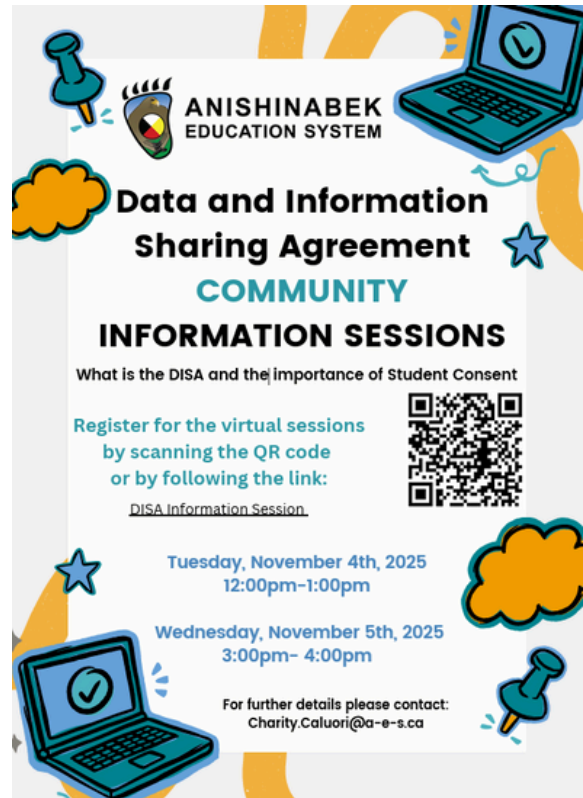
Data and Information Sharing Agreement: Information Session

November 4, 2025

Online Event

Contact:

Charity.Caluori@a-e-s.ca



Bi-Annual Language Bowl

November 7, 2025

Online Event

Contact:

Hannah.ODonnell
@a-e-s.ca

UPCOMING EVENTS



EDUCATION SESSION

Addressing Anti-Indigenous Racism Virtual Session

Aanii! The Kinooaadziwin Education Body is pleased to offer educators an opportunity to join Randi Ray as we continue to explore the important topic of Addressing Anti Indigenous Racism in Schools.

Event & Registration Information



Tuesday October 21st, 2025
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

To Register Scan QR Code or Visit:
<https://forms.office.com/r/T38sYBV32w>

About Randi Ray



Randi Ray, Giiwedín Noodin kwe n'dizhinikaaz. Flying Post miinwa Red Rock miinwa, N'swakamok n'doonjibaa. Randi Ray, PhD (c) is a proud Anishinaabe Kwe and founder of Miikana Consulting and Noojimo Health (Canada's first Indigenous-owned Virtual Mental Health Clinic). Randi is passionate and committed to working with people and organizations to bridge the social and economic gaps across all sectors for Indigenous people. Randi has experience educationally and professionally in education, business, health and industry sectors as a provincial lead, advocate, strategist, facilitator, researcher and lifelong learner. Randi's motivation is deeply rooted, and her passion is to improve overall minobiimadziwin (the good life) for First Nations people.

THIS SESSION WILL FOCUS ON:

- Practical tools for educators to address anti Indigenous racism
- Interrupting when racist comments are observed or reported, so that students know immediate action is taken and that this is not okay in schools
- Scenarios will allow participants to discuss and practice the skills needed to address anti Indigenous racism

CONTENT WARNING

This topic can sometimes be triggering for Indigenous people unlearning and re-learning about ongoing colonialism. If you are looking for Indigenous specific support to unpack some of the topics that may be discussed, or need additional support the following resources are available to you:

First Nations, Métis & Inuit Hope for Wellness
Help Line

1.855.242.3310

Noojimo Health (all-Indigenous virtual
counselling service)

1.833.277.5678

www.noojimohealth.ca

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