



(Photo: Duchesnay Falls, Nipissing First Nation)



DIBAAJMOWIN

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Message from the Director

Aanii, Boozhoo, Koolamalsi,

In this edition of Dibaajmowin – May 2026, we celebrate the continued strength and collaboration across the Anishinabek Education System. This issue highlights the work of the Regional Education Councils in advancing cultural teachings, strengthening transitions, and building capacity among educators. The ongoing language revitalization efforts that bring Anishinaabemowin and Lunaapeew learning to classrooms and communities bring life to the AES language strategy. We honour the success of gatherings such as the Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum and Youth Council events, where knowledge sharing, leadership, and connection to land and culture remain central. As we look ahead to upcoming initiatives, new resources, and continued engagement, we remain committed to nurturing student success and bimaadziwin for all learners across the Nations.

*Nancy O'Donnell,
Director of Education*

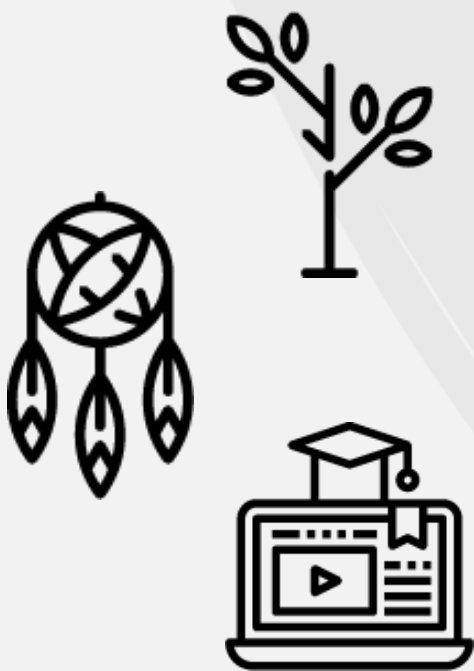
Regional Education Council Highlights

Regional Education Council 1

On April 16th, Chief and Council from Long Lake #58 First Nation along with education staff from Migizi Wazisin Elementary School and Migizi Miigwanan Secondary School, hosted representatives from Superior-Greenstone District School Board and Superior North Catholic District School Board to take part in module 3 of the Ezhi Kendmang Anishinaabe Naadziwin (EKAN) “Sharing the Knowledge of the People” program.

The day was facilitated by Sandi Boucher and provided an opportunity for education staff throughout the region to learn Indigenous history and policy while also learning cultural teachings from Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

This knowledge is valuable in its use to support Anishinabek learners in public and catholic schools in the region and throughout the province.



Regional Education Council Highlights

Regional Education Council 2

During the last days of February (almost March!), Region 2 hosted a 2-day Professional Development session for the education staff of the Region 2 communities. This session was held on February 27 & 28, at the Hilton Garden Inn, Sudbury. Day 1 was facilitated by SS Consulting Behavioural Services with a focus on Understanding Behaviour and Neuroaffirming Support Strategies. The day included practice scenarios from the student perspective, as well as the ongoing completion of a Behavioural Plan.

The morning of Day 2 focused on Watercolour Painting with Lyndsay Taibossigai and Beam Paints. Participants learned techniques and how this activity can strengthen staff wellness bundles. Participants also learned how they can take this tool and the learned techniques back to community to share with students or youth. Each participant was provided with a personal set, and each community was provided with a full set of Beam Paints to utilize with students and youth.

The afternoon of Day 2 was guided by Danya Skworchinski, KEB Special Education Coordinator. Participants registered for the KEB Virtual Learning Environment and received a guided tour of the VLE, showcasing all the valuable resources and PD sessions. Participants explored everything that was available at their fingertips and at their own pace!

There were so many highlights over the two days with amazing feedback shared and great ideas generated for future supports, tools and PD. A huge **Chi Miigwech to those staff in attendance who participated throughout the 2 days – which included a Saturday! This demonstrates your commitment and passion to supporting our students and their success!**



Regional Education Council Highlights

Regional Education Council 3

Nathalie Restoule, a language teacher working closely with her home community of Dokis First Nation, has been supporting language and cultural revitalization through Nishinaabemwin workshops and resources. Her recent book release was created for learners of all levels, with activities that help build vocabulary, understand Nishinaabe sounds, and bring language learning into everyday life and the home.



The book has been a great success, with all copies sold. All proceeds from the book will be reinvested into community language programs, supporting the continued growth of Nishinaabemwin for future generations. Natalie is also proud to carry this work forward as part of her journey as a delegate for Miss Indigenous Canada 2026.

Miigwech to everyone supporting this work and helping bring the language to life.



Regional Education Council Highlights

Regional Education Council 4

Transitions in Motion!

Regional Education Council 4 is bringing partners together to strengthen supports for students during key transition points, including entering JK, moving from Grade 8 to Grade 9, and planning pathways after high school into post-secondary education, trades, or the workforce. This collaborative project creates space for those working directly with students to share wise practices, build relationships, and strengthen collective capacity to support learners through these important milestones.

The Council is also experiencing a transition of its own. We extend sincere thanks to Jana Bickell from Chippewas of Rama First Nation for her dedication, contributions, and commitment to bringing community voices forward.

We are also pleased to welcome Brittany MacDonald to the Council. As an Elementary Student Support Worker, Brittany brings valuable experience and a strong focus on student transitions.



Language Coordinator Updates

Region 1 Language Updates

On March 26, Region 1 hosted a hybrid Language Teacher Professional Learning Community in Thunder Bay. The full-day session included learning on Ojibwe immersion, programming our own Anishinaabemowin resources, daily Ojibwe programming, Anishinaabemowin and mino-bimaadiziwin, and using Book Creator as a classroom tool.

The KEB Language Team has begun planning for the annual Elder and Youth Gathering, taking place August 4–5, 2026, at Nipissing University in North Bay. This year's gathering will focus on sharing Elder knowledge and creating space for traditional teachings, language learning, and cultural connection. Anishinaabemowin and Lunaapeew will be included throughout the sessions, supporting language and culture for generations to come. **Participants are encouraged to pre-register by July 1.**

AES Language Portal



**Scan the QR Code
or visit:**

**[https://tinyurl.com/
LanguagePortal](https://tinyurl.com/LanguagePortal)**

**To view the full
Aambe
Gendaaswidaa
Books & other
language
resources.**

Language Coordinator Updates

Region 2 Language Updates

The Region 2 Anishinaabemowin Language Committee is active, and meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month. These meetings will be in person during the summer months as we continue to work together in supporting the PFN's Anishinaabemowin.

Congratulations to Sheshegwaning First Nation's St. Joseph Anishinabek School who will receive a pizza party for their Kindness Quotes Contest Submissions! These quotes will appear in the next student planner!



A Professional Learning Circle (PLC) was hosted on April 17, 2026, in Sault Ste. Marie. All participants received 14 Anishinaabemowin books, activities, and games. Participants created Anishinaabemowin lesson plans to complement the books received and resources currently located on the KEB language portal. The lesson plans created at the PLC will also eventually be shared on the portal for all to access. The Anishinaabemowin Book Bag initiative is aimed at providing resource support to Anishinaabemowin educators, community programs, and language champions. Due to the high interest in this PLC, additional dates were added for June 5 and September 2, 2026. This upcoming event is in partnership with the Region 4 Anishinaabemowin Anokiit.

The Manitoulin Island Aadziwin and Anishinaabemowin Youth and Elders Gathering planning is underway. This is taking place on July 22-25, 2026. More information to follow on this exciting event!

Due to the success and demand of the AES Student Planner, the Anishinaabemowin team has been meeting ongoing for a 2026/2027 planner to discuss initiatives, content and creation.

Another exciting event being planned is the AES Anishinaabemowin Systemwide Youth and Elders Gathering being held in North Bay on August 4 & 5, 2026. Registration is now open!

Planning has already begun for KWEJI KINOOMAGZIDAA sessions for 2026/2027.

Ongoing is participation in Rosetta Stone programming with Whitefish River First Nation community members.

In April, the Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum took place in Sault St. Marie on April 21 & 22. The Region 2 Breakout Room focused on Anishinaabemowin and what supports can be provided in partnership with Regional School Boards. This will be discussed further at the upcoming Region 2 Spring Meeting on May 20, 2026 at the Manitoulin Hotel and Conference Center in Little Current.

At all these events, please be on the lookout for the Anishinaabemowin Swag, which includes words and phrases as a fun way to promote the language!

It continues to be extremely busy in the Region 2 Anishinaabemowin community as plans for gatherings are happening and preparations for resource sharing continue to engage our partnering First Nations.

Language Coordinator Updates

Region 3 Language Updates

On March 24 & 25, the 2-day Gathering called “Anishinaabe Miingweziwin--Passing On, Sharing, Giving of our Gifts” took place at Casino Rama. Regions 3 and 4 collaborated on this event and opened it up to other regions and non-PFNs who were on the waitlist.

Over 13 presenters/co-facilitators conducted workshops focusing either on Culture, Language and Ceremony. The first day of the conference started out with the Eagle and Pipe teaching, and participants pledged to make sunrise smudging and reading of the Ngo Dwe Waanigizid Anishinaabe a regular part of their routine.

Other workshops featured: Ojibwe songs using ukuleles; shakers and hand drums; crafts – beading and birch bark & quill work; Feather Teachings, Stages of Life Teachings, Passing on to Spirit World, and teaching Ojibwe language workshops also took place.



Region 4 Language Updates

Region 4 has been busy creating spaces for language teachers and community partners to gather, learn, and share. On March 12, the second Lunaapeew Professional Learning Circle was held in London, Ontario, bringing together 40 participants for a day of language learning, resource sharing, and collaboration.

Region 3 and Region 4 worked together to host a language and culture gathering at Casino Rama, with approximately 75 participants in attendance. The gathering created space for Anishinaabe language, culture, ceremony, and intergenerational knowledge sharing.

Looking ahead, the next Region 4 Professional Learning Circle will take place on May 22 at the Rama First Nation Health Centre. The theme for the gathering is “Zhinoomaage Enaweying – Showing the Sound of Our Language.”

We will be partnering with Rec 2 to host a book bag initiative in Sudbury happening on June 5th.

Language Coordinator Updates

Lunaapeew Alohkáakan Language Update

Lunaapeew language revitalization continues to grow through resource development, professional learning, and community-based planning. New Lunaapeew resources have been developed to support everyday language learning, including a language colouring book and “around the home” sticker labels with recorded audio QR codes.

In April, Velma Noah-Nicholas hosted a virtual professional development session with Ian McCallum, who shared Lunaapeew history and culture, including teachings connected to the journey from the original homelands to Munsee-Delaware Nation.

Velma, alongside other Lunaapeew language warriors, has been working hard to complete Lunaapeew translation work for the upcoming Lunaapeew Student Planner.

Looking ahead, the team continues to respond to the Nations’ requests by supporting monthly professional development sessions, planning future language initiatives with the Munsee Language Working Group, and recruiting Lunaapeew language resource developers to create more resources in the language.

Anushiik!























Around the Home Kidwinan - Part Bezhik Guide Book



Scan miinwaa bizindan!



Aachkinjigan – Living room

Waasechigan(an) Window(s)  	Gichi Paabwin(an) Couch(es)  
Waasechigan(an) Window(s)  	Waasechigan(an) Window(s)  
Waasechigan(an) Window(s)  	Waasechigan(an) Window(s)  
Waasechigan(an) Window(s)  	Waasechigan(an) Window(s)  
Waasechigan(an) Window(s)  	Waasechigan(an) Window(s)  



Scan the QR codes to hear the singular & plural Anishinaabemowin pronunciation



Language & Culture Lead Update

Naakizhege Project Update

Cynthia Wemigwans, KEB's Naagaaniwiwidod Anishinaabe Aadziwin, highlighted the Naakizhege project during her presentation at the NG Forum on April 21–22, 2026. Naakizhege means “stoking the fire,” and the project focuses on encouraging the everyday use of Anishinaabemowin in classrooms and learning spaces.

Through the pilot project at Shawanosowe School, Cynthia worked with educators to reflect on how Anishinaabemowin was being used, where language was visible, and how teachers could build confidence using the language throughout the day. This included teacher self-reflections, classroom observations, learning space assessments, and practical language supports. Examples included using Anishinaabemowin numbers during attendance and transitions, introducing common classroom phrases, and supporting repeated language use so students could begin recognizing and using words more naturally.

By creating more opportunities for Anishinaabemowin to be seen, heard, practiced, and repeated throughout the school day, the project helps nurture confidence in educators and learners while keeping the language fire strong for future generations.



11th Annual Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum

The 11th annual Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum took place on April 21–22, 2026, at the Quattro Hotel and Conference Centre. The two-day gathering was filled with opportunities for learning, sharing, networking, and setting direction for collaborative work in support of Anishinabek student success and well-being.

Each day of the Forum began with a sunrise ceremony facilitated by Mike Hodgson. These ceremonies provided participants with an opportunity to begin each day in a good way and ground themselves in the important work they would undertake together.

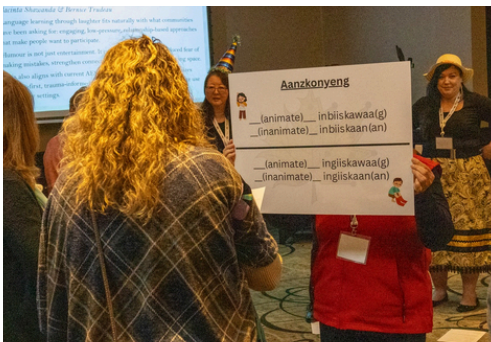
Keynote presentations were delivered by Joe Pitawanakwat and Dr. Alan Corbiere, who shared their extensive knowledge of plants, medicines, connection to the land, language, and places of special significance throughout Anishinabek territories.

Language was woven throughout the event through energizer activities, presentations on pilot initiatives, and regional work focused on supporting language acquisition. Following the Youth Council update, a language-based game was facilitated by the youth.

The youth spent time together participating in a financial literacy game that simulated real-life situations and scenarios they may encounter in the future. Between leadership activities, they engaged in meaningful discussions about their perspectives on land-based learning and the opportunities they would like to see for youth to continue building environmental stewardship, strengthening their connection to the land, and deepening their cultural knowledge. The youth later presented a summary of their discussion to the main plenary.

The Forum featured an evening session where participants gathered to view the documentary “They Are Sacred”, by Dr. Grant Bruno. The session was well received and further supported the ongoing work of the AES to incorporate Anishinabek perspectives and foster a more holistic approach to special education.

The 12th annual Forum will take place on April 6–7, 2027.



The Data and Information Sharing Agreement (DISA)

Thirty-two (32) AES Education Support Staff registered for the Northern College micro-credential, Roles and Responsibilities of an Education Support Worker/Educational Assistant. Through this professional learning opportunity, participants strengthened their understanding of the essential responsibilities, skills, ethics, and legal obligations connected to the ESW role, while exploring practical strategies to support diverse learner needs and growth. Esinaa Gwaataani Nishin, Kuniipaweelulohna to all who received their certification!



ANISHINABEK EDUCATION SYSTEM

Data and Information Sharing Agreement

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

Explore and discuss the updated data visuals regarding AES students.

Register for the virtual sessions by scanning the QR code or by following the link:

[DISA Information Session](#)

Tuesday, May 19th 2026
3:00pm – 4:00pm

Thursday, May 21st 2026
12:00pm – 1:00pm

For further details please contact:
Charity.Caluori@a-e-s.ca

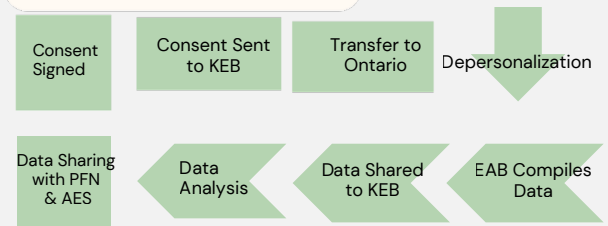


DATA AND INFORMATION SHARING AGREEMENT AT-A-GLANCE

WHAT IS THE DISA?

- ✓ Assigned agreement between the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body and the Ministry of Education
- ✓ The KEB and the Ontario Ministry of Education maintains and protects the confidentiality of the personal information shared.

DATA SHARING PROCESS



WHY IS DISA CONSENT IMPORTANT?

- ✓ For students that live on-reserve, and attend school off-reserve
 - Data collected and maintained is needed for administration, student success and well-being
 - Without consent, KEB does not have access to the data to make informed decisions for student success and well-being
- ✓ For students that live off-reserve and attend school off-reserve.
 - ON and the schools collect and maintain data needed for administration
 - PFNs often provide educational support and services to this demographic
- ✓ To have a clear picture, more student consents are needed

BENEFITS TO AES STUDENTS AND COMMUNITIES

- Informed decision making, research and funding priorities
- Enables customized professional development and learning to address student needs
- Special education supports customized for AES need
- Assists in responsive teaching aligned with Anishnabek standards

DATA SOVEREIGNTY

- ✓ The DISA ensures that data and information is managed in a manner that meets the First Nations' expectations and interpretation of their ownership, control, access and possession of their data and information. (Appendices 6, DISA)

DIGITAL CONSENT FORM

Scan the following QR code or follow the link below for the digital consent form.



[Anishinabek Education System - Data and Information Sharing Agreement](#)

For more information, contact Charity Caluori, Education Data Analyst at charity.caluori@a-e-s.ca

AES Youth Council

AES Youth Spring Gathering – Rama First Nation

In March, the AES Youth Council gathered in Rama First Nation for the AES Youth Spring Gathering, hosted in the Sugar Bush in partnership with Great Lakes Cultural Camps. The gathering focused on strengthening cultural knowledge, connection to the land, and relationship building among youth from across the Anishinabek Nation.

Throughout the gathering, youth participated in hands-on learning experiences centered around traditional maple syrup teachings. Participants learned about the full process of sugar bush practices, including tapping maple trees, collecting sap, boiling sugar water, and creating traditional maple products such as maple sugar, maple butter, and maple toffee. The gathering provided youth with an opportunity to reconnect with seasonal teachings and gain a deeper understanding of the cultural significance of the sugar bush.

In addition to the land-based activities, youth spent time building relationships with one another and learning directly from Knowledge Holders and facilitators from Great Lakes Cultural Camps. The gathering created a welcoming environment for youth to learn through experience, strengthen their cultural identity, and engage in meaningful conversations around community, leadership, and wellness.

This gathering strengthened the relationship between the AES Youth Council and Great Lakes Cultural Camps, creating opportunities for continued collaboration and support for future youth gatherings and cultural programming.



AES Youth Council

Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum – Sault Ste. Marie

In April, the AES Youth Council attended the Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum in Sault Ste. Marie, where youth from across the Anishinabek Education System gathered to participate in discussions, workshops, and activities focused on education, leadership, and youth engagement.

During the forum, the Youth Council supported several youth-focused sessions and activities throughout the event. Council members assisted Helen Bobiwash with the Financial Literacy Game, where youth participants learned about budgeting, decision making, and financial wellness through interactive activities. The Youth Council also supported Youth Ambassador Rylee Restoule during a discussion focused on expanding land-based practices in education, where youth shared perspectives on the importance of incorporating culture, language, and traditional teachings into learning environments.

The council presented a Year-in-Review update during the main plenary session, highlighting the work, gatherings, workshops, and initiatives completed throughout the past year. This presentation provided an opportunity for the Youth Council to share accomplishments, reflect on their growth, and showcase the ongoing work being done to support Anishinabek youth.

In addition, the Youth Council participated in a youth Q&A session, where they spoke about their experiences as council members, shared advice with other youth, and encouraged participants to become more involved in leadership opportunities within their communities and across the Anishinabek Nation.

The forum provided valuable opportunities for networking, collaboration, and youth voice engagement; while continuing to strengthen connections between youth leaders, educators, and communities.



Virtual Secondary School

KEB VIRTUAL SECONDARY SCHOOL



IMPORTANT INFO:

REGISTER HERE >



Summer 2026 - Reach Ahead - LNOBO - Level B Ojibwe

Taking place from July 2 to July 31, 2026

Register using the link below or through the Guidance Department

Summer Reach Ahead July 2026

REGISTRATION LNOBO - Level B Ojibwe

Well done!

Semester 1

LNOAO - Level A Ojibwe - 33 students were successful in receiving their credits

LNOBO - Level B Ojibwe - 7 students were successful in receiving credits

MTH1W - DeStreamed Grade 9 Math - 54 students were successful in receiving their credits.

Chi miigwech to our two teachers, Mr. Michael McCarville and Ms. Jessie Plain for their dedication to all of the students in the VSS during Semester 1.

UPCOMING COURSES 2026/2027 SCHOOL YEAR

- Semester 1
 - LNOAO - Level A Ojibwe
 - LNOBO - Level B Ojibwe
 - MTH1W - Grade 9 De-streamed Math
- Semester 2
 - LNOAO - Level A Ojibwe
 - LNOBO - Level B Ojibwe
 - LNOCO - Level C Ojibwe
 - LND AO - Level A Lunaapeew
 - SNC1W - Grade 9 De-streamed Science

For more information contact Systems Principal - Marlo Beaucage at marlo.beaucage@a-e-s.ca

UPCOMING EVENTS



Elder & Youth Conference

August 4th and 5th
Nipissing University Campus
North Bay, ON

Anishinabek Perspectives in the Classroom

August 25th and 26th
Quattro Hotel
Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Navigating the Provincial System

June 3rd and 4th, 2026


In-Person Event

*Nottawasaga Inn
Alliston, Ontario*

Contact:

Roslyn.Bowness@a-e-s.ca

The flyer features a background image of a compass. The text is arranged in a structured layout. At the top right is the Anishinabek Education System logo. The main title is in large, bold, white letters on a dark background. Below the title is the date and location. A list of topics is provided in a white box. To the right, there is an invitation to the session and a registration link with a QR code.



NAVIGATING THE PROVINCIAL EDUCATION SYSTEM


June 3 & June 4 (Day 2 wraps up following lunch)
Nottawasaga Inn
Alliston, Ontario

You are invited to this in-person session where participants will have the opportunity to share experiences, ask questions, and learn together as we advance our work with district school boards.

The agenda for the day will be generated through the registration process as we design an experience that is responsive, and purposeful for participants.

Please use the following link to register for this session and suggest topics of interest. Your input will help us to design a session that best meets your interests and current challenges of practice in working with school boards.

<https://bit.ly/4m7QVnG>



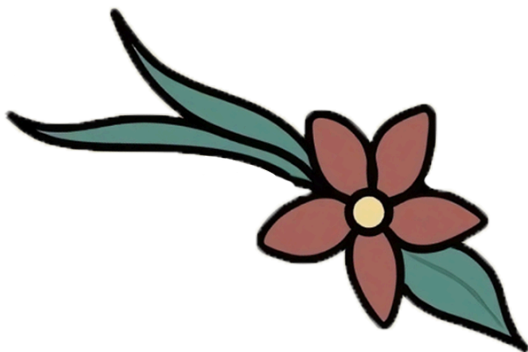
Some topics may include:

- Reciprocal Education Approach (REA)
- Education Service Agreements (ESAs)
- The Core Funding Model in Ontario
- Indigenous Education Councils (IECs)
- Board Action Plans (BAP)
- Special Education
- Addressing Racism
- Safe Schools
- Police and School Protocols
- Other topics of interest to participants

New Staff

Sarah MacLeod Beaver

System Learning Lead



Lorrie Griffith

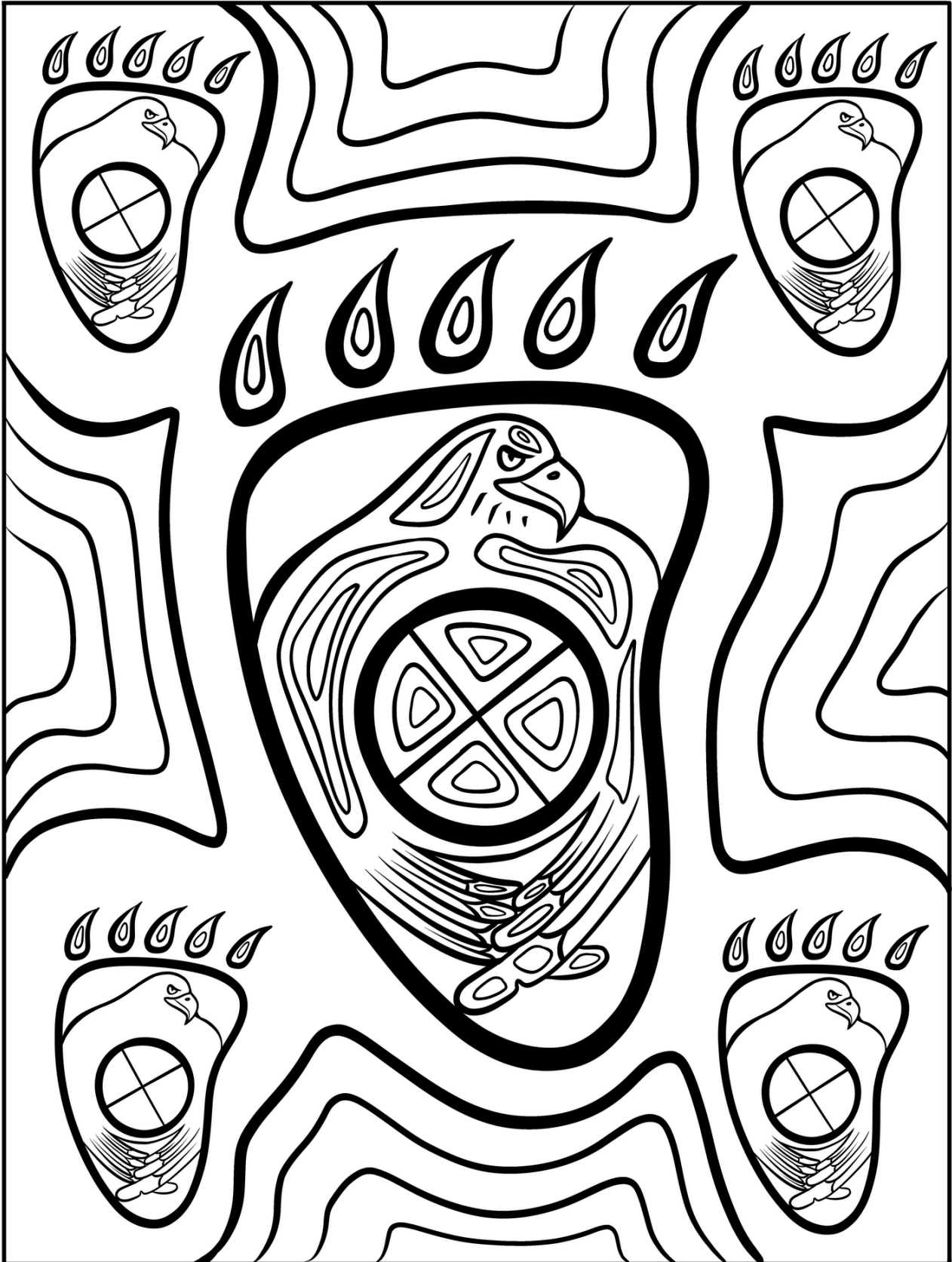
Finance Officer

Whitney Zack

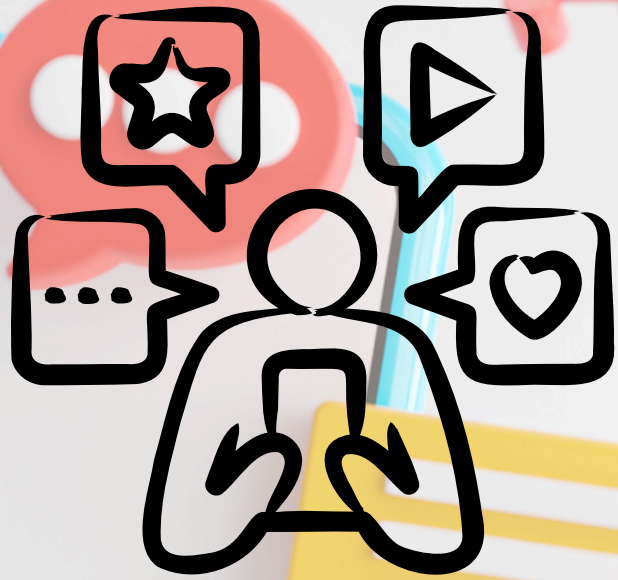
Communications Manager



AES Logo Colouring Page



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