



(Photo: Lake Nipissing, North Bay)



DIBAAJMOWIN

Inside this issue

- Message from the Director
- Regional Education Council Highlights
- Regional Language Coordinator Updates
- Special Education Update
- Youth Council Update
- Virtual Secondary School
- Upcoming Events
- New Staff Members



Message from the Director

Boozhoo gakina wiiya,
nishnaabemtaadidaa enso-giizhgak.

It was so beautiful to hear the sounds of Anishinaabemowin and Lunaapeew at the Elder and Youth Gathering held in North Bay at Nipissing University during the month of August. The Language Team continues to advance the AES Language Strategy through collaboration with the Nations.

The Kinoomaadziwin Education Body also hosted the Annual General Meeting at Nipissing Secondary School, during the month of August. The leadership approved the Annual Report for publication; you can find it on our website for review. The AES youth council presented on their successes and future goals for the upcoming year; we appreciate the input from future leaders.

Miigwech to all who joined in-person and virtually, it was great to connect!

Miigwech/Anushiik,
Nancy O'Donnell,
Director of Education

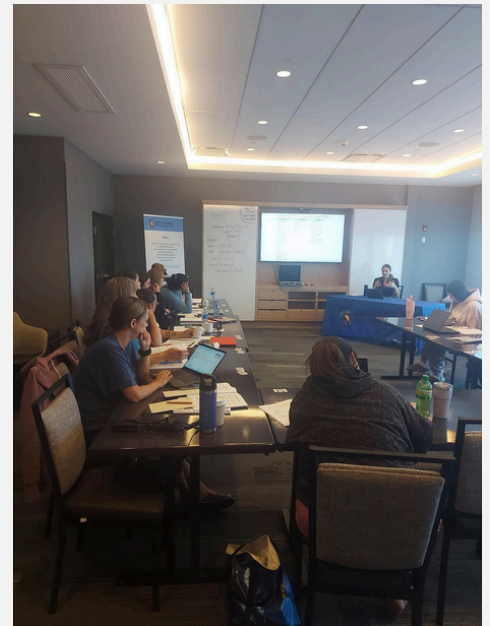
Regional Education Council 1 Highlights

REC 1 Hosts Two-Day Education Support Worker Gathering

On August 27 and 28, KEB welcomed education support workers to Thunder Bay for a two-day professional learning gathering.

Throughout the gathering, participants took part in workshops led by Ignite Behaviour Consulting and Learn Different. Topics included autism and Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA), self-regulation strategies, supporting IEP implementation, and assistive technology.

Chi-Miigwech to our presenters for sharing their knowledge and expertise, and to all the education support staff who took time from their busy schedules to come together for two days of learning, collaboration, and connection.



Region 1 Language Coordinator Updates

In REC 1, an exciting new resource has been developed in partnership with Learning Bird to help bring more Anishinaabemowin into everyday classroom learning.

The Anishinaabemowin in the Classroom resource was created using common words and phrases teachers and students frequently use in JK/SK classrooms. These everyday expressions were translated into Anishinaabemowin, with accompanying voice recordings created for each translation to support pronunciation and language learning.

Using this content, Learning Bird developed a comprehensive classroom resource set that includes three large posters, 122 Velcro labels, and a master word list. The materials make it easier for educators and students to incorporate Anishinaabemowin into daily classroom routines and learning environments.

The new resource will be distributed to REC 1 communities alongside Around the Home stickers and Chameleon Readers during the upcoming Anishinaabemowin Professional Development session on October 19 and 20 at the Valhalla Hotel in Thunder Bay.

The professional development session will give educators another opportunity to come together, explore language-learning resources, and share ways to continue strengthening the presence of Anishinaabemowin in classrooms and communities.

Are you good?

Gmino-yaa na?

How are you?

Aaniish naa giin?

Regional Education Council 2 Highlights

Students from Region 2 had the opportunity to earn high school credits throughout August by participating in the Regional Reach Ahead Summer Program.

The program offered two courses: Grade 12 World Cultures and Grade 9 Expressions of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Cultures. The three-week program blended virtual learning with experiential and land-based learning opportunities. Students completed the first week online before travelling to Iqaluit, Nunavut, for the second week, then returned to online learning for the final week.

While in Nunavut, students took part in a variety of memorable cultural experiences, including netting for Arctic char, participating in traditional Inuit games, and learning about the qulliq. Students also had the opportunity to try traditional foods, including seal stew and caribou burgers.

By the end of the program, 12 students successfully earned their high school credits. Congratulations to all of the students who participated, and Chi Miigwech to everyone who helped support and make the program possible.

Region 2 is also celebrating exciting progress in Sheshegwaning First Nation, where construction of the community's new school continues. The new school is currently scheduled to open in time for the September 2027 school year, marking an exciting milestone for students, families, and the community.



Region 2 Language Coordinator Updates

Eko Niizhing Dibaakiiwin Anishinaabemowin Anokiit attended the Region 2 Reach Ahead credit trip with students, where we immersed ourselves in learning the culture, traditions, harvesting practices, games, and language.

Professional Learning Circles continue to be a great success in supporting the Anishinaabemowin teachers, language workers and language support workers by networking with one another to create Lesson Plans for Anishinaabemowin books found on the AES Language Portal. All participants received copies of 12-15 Anishinaabemowin books to use in their schools and/or language programs, with copies of all resources' activities and games. Participants created lesson plans to complement the books and resources for all Anishinaabemowin learners and teachers. Region 2 has completed three sessions of "Book Bag Initiative".

Aadziwin Gathering was a great success in Whitefish River in August 2026, with congratulations to all supporting community programs throughout Manitoulin Island who helped host and coordinate this event.

Robinson Huron Treaty Gathering in Wasauksing was held September 8th and 9th, 2026, where KEB information was shared at the booth. Miigwech to Bonnie and Kaelyn for all your hard work in helping.

Region 2 has been extremely busy supporting Anishinaabemowin requests from communities and school boards, and I look forward to continuing the strengthening of relationships with Anishinaabemowin programs, teachers, and organizations.



Regional Education Council 3 Highlights

This summer brought several changes within First Nation education departments across Regional Education Council 3.

In Magnetawan First Nation, we extend sincere appreciation to outgoing Education Manager and REC Representative Carol Stevens for her many years of leadership, service, and dedication to supporting students' and the community's education needs. Her contributions as Magnetawan's REC representative have been greatly valued.

We also extend a warm welcome to Lynda Hoksbergen, who recently joined Magnetawan First Nation as the new Director of Education. She brings new leadership to the education department as the community continues its work to support learners and families.

In Henvey Inlet First Nation, the education department continues to grow with the addition of a new Education Manager position. Sean Contin is warmly welcomed into this important role as he joins the team in supporting the community's education priorities and ongoing programming.

These transitions mark an exciting period of growth and change within REC 3, with continued focus on strong leadership and support for First Nation learners.



Regional Education Council 3 Highlights (Continued)

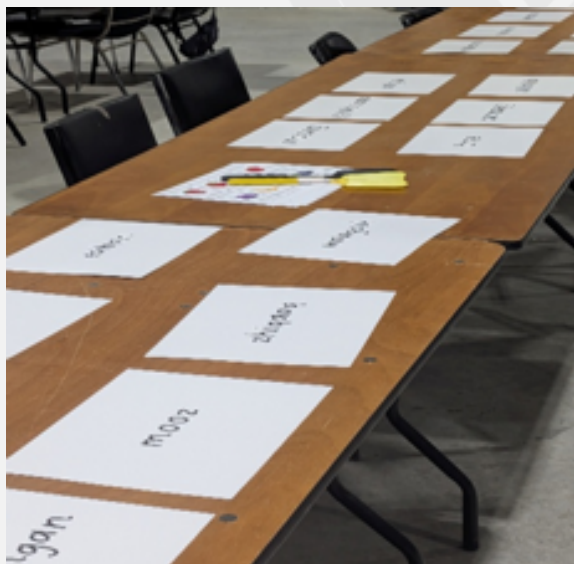
Henvey Inlet – REC 3 Highlights

Henvey Inlet First Nation concluded the school year with an exciting 2026 Celebration. REC staff joined students in Anishinaabemowin learning activities, including a variety of engaging language games.

Throughout this new school year, Henvey Inlet will offer a wide range of educational and youth-focused initiatives, including, but not limited to:

- After-school program for youth ages 8 to 16
- The Health Sciences North PARTY (Prevent Alcohol and Risk Related Trauma in Youth) program for grades 9-12, which includes a hospital tour and interactive learning experiences
- A Back to School Bingo event that provided backpacks and complimentary haircuts to help them prepare for the new school year.
- The annual student trip to Canada's Wonderland, an annual event that students look forward to each year before returning to school.

As we begin a new academic year, we extend our best wishes to all students, families, educators and community members in Region 3, for a successful and rewarding school year ahead.



Region 3 Language Coordinator Updates

This year's Annual Youth & Elder Language Gathering was a wonderful success, bringing participants together for engaging cultural and language-based learning opportunities.

Region 3 Language Coordinator / Nsing Dibaakiiwin Anishinaabemowin Anokiit Jacinta Shawanda supported the gathering as a helper in nine workshops, contributing to a wide range of activities throughout the event.



One highlight was Bernice Trudeau's Clothing Game, which brought plenty of energy and laughter to the group. The activity was such a hit that laughter could be heard from outside the classroom and throughout the halls.



Participants also enjoyed two sessions led by Laurie McLeod-Shabogesic, which focused on teachings related to a variety of medicines. As part of the sessions, participants sampled Tamarack tea and sweet water (maple sap), adding an interactive and memorable element to the learning experience.

The gathering offered meaningful opportunities to share knowledge, strengthen language learning, and celebrate culture together.



Regional Education Council 4 Highlights

Welcoming Eelünaapéewi Lahkéewiit!

Region 4 Is Growing!

At the time of publication, we are excited to welcome Delaware Nation to Region 4. The community ratified a vote to join the AES in August and was formally accepted at this year's Annual General Meeting.

We look forward to welcoming their representatives to our Regional Education Council in the coming months.

Delaware Nation is located on the southern shores of the Thames River near the community of Thamesville, approximately three hours west of Toronto. About 550 residents live in the community, while total membership exceeds 1,000 people.

The Delaware Nation at Moraviantown is one of the region's oldest settlements, founded in 1792.

Learn more about their migration at this link: [About Us – Eelünaapéewi Lahkéewiit](#)

Eelünaapéewi Lahkéewiit partners with the Lambton Kent District School Board (LKDSB). We already work closely with LKDSB through its partnership with Aamjiwnaang First Nation, which will help support a smooth transition into the AES.

There may be even more growth on the horizon. At the end of September, another First Nation that partners with LKDSB will vote on ratifying membership in the AES. Keep your eyes and ears open for further updates!



Region 4 Language Coordinator Updates

Spring PLC took place in Rama First Nation on May 22nd: "Zhinoomaage Enaweying - Showing the Sound of our Language." Great turnout with resource sharing, collaboration & connection amongst Anishinaabemowin teachers

Summer immersion gathering for youth was a great success; families gathered from tri-council communities: Georgina Island, Rama & Chimnissing. It was a great turnout, and folks were happy to connect and learn on the land together.

Rama First Nation had a beautiful immersion day for kina wiya to receive level 'A', 'B', and 'C' Anishinaabemowin certificates with an immersion component built in on August 20th. They will be planning a similar event in the future. Nishin to the staff who supported and led such a wonderful day.

Book Bag initiative in Sudbury (Collaboration with Rec 2 anokiit, Lynn) was a huge success. It was wonderful to see the curricula come together from the resources that were there. We will continue this initiative in Rec 4 at the fall PLC.

Next PLC: November 20th in Rama First Nation; this will extend the book bag initiative. Registration will open soon.



Language & Culture Lead Update

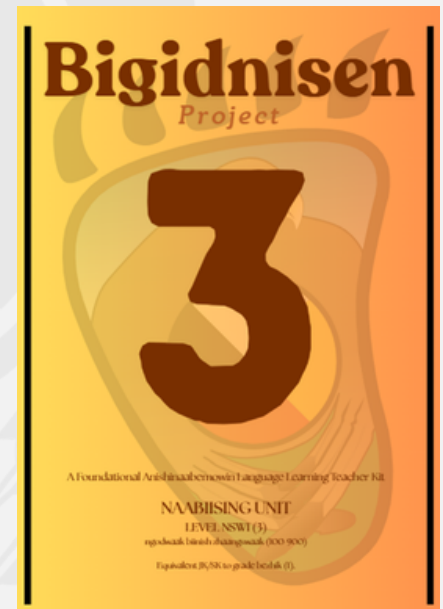
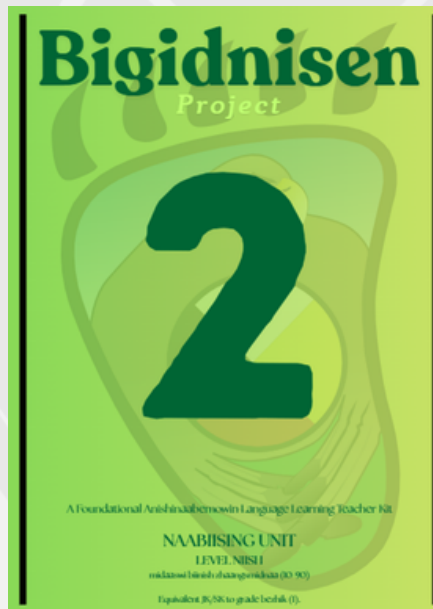
The Bigidnisen Project

The **Bigidnisen Project** serves as a foundation for learning **Anishinaabemowin**. It is designed to help learners understand how sounds are connected and combined to build confidence in beginning Anishinaabemowin conversations. The project's resources are specifically tailored for language teachers working in communities and District School Boards.

On **September 11, 2026, Naaganiwiwdod Anishinaabe Aadziwin, Language and Culture Lead**, hosted an in-person professional development (PD) session at **Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation**. The session gave educators an opportunity to explore effective approaches to language teaching and engage with resources developed through the Bigidnisen Project.

Several resources support language learning, including the **Naabiising Primary Level Teacher Kit Parts 1-3**. The Kinoomaadziwin Education Body (KEB) Wellness Portal will make these teacher kits available under KEB's language resources, giving educators accessible tools to support Anishinaabemowin instruction in their classrooms and communities.

[Home - Anishinabek Education System Wellness Portal - aeswellnessportal.ca](https://aeswellnessportal.ca)



Lunaapeew Alohkáakan Language Update

Lunaapeew language learning opportunities continue to grow, with several exciting initiatives underway this fall.

Online virtual language classes will run from September 15 to December 1, giving learners continued opportunities to build their Lunaapeew language knowledge and skills in an accessible virtual setting.

Beginning this school year, Lunaapeew language programming will also be offered to students at Delaware Central Elementary School through the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB), further expanding opportunities for young learners to engage with the language.

Planning is also underway for upcoming Professional Learning Community (PLC) sessions for educators. Tentative dates include October 26, aligning with a TVDSB Professional Development Day, and November 20, aligning with a Lambton Kent District School Board (LKDSB) Professional Development Day.

Monthly professional development sessions with Munsee Day Care will also continue, supporting ongoing language learning, collaboration, and capacity building.

In addition, Lunaapeew resource development is now entering its third month, with continued work focused on creating and strengthening resources that support language learning, teaching, and revitalization.



PD – Anishinabek Perspectives in the Classroom

The Anishinabek Perspectives in the Classroom professional development session was held in Sault Ste. Marie on August 25 and 26, bringing together more than 50 Indigenous educators for two days of learning, collaboration, and shared discussion. During the session, participants received copies of the 20 Anishinabek Curriculum Enhancement Units, which were developed to support learning across a variety of curriculum areas and grade levels while incorporating Anishinaabe knowledge and perspectives.

Educators had the opportunity to explore the units, exchange ideas, and discuss how to incorporate the resources into their classrooms and learning environments. The two-day session created space for meaningful conversations around culturally grounded teaching and provided participants with practical resources they can continue to use in their work with learners.



Elder & Youth Gathering

The 2nd Annual Elder & Youth Gathering took place on August 4 and 5 at Nipissing University in North Bay, bringing together about 200 participants for two days of cultural learning, language, connection, and community.

More than 30 facilitators helped bring the gathering to life by sharing their knowledge, experiences, and teachings with participants. Throughout the event, Elders and youth had opportunities to learn from one another, take part in cultural and language-based activities, and build meaningful connections in a welcoming and engaging environment.

The gathering was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate culture, strengthen relationships, and create space for intergenerational learning and knowledge sharing.



Special Education

The KEB is excited to announce the launch of the AES Special Education Handbook Series, a collection of practical, educator-focused resources designed to support inclusive learning environments.

Developed to support educators working with learners from the early years through secondary school, this handbook series provides guidance on recognizing learner needs, implementing responsive strategies, and better understanding professional assessments and diagnoses.

The series includes three comprehensive handbooks:

- Nurturing Strong Roots: Practical Supports for Early Learners (Preschool–Grade 2)
- Guiding Growth: Responsive Strategies for Diverse Learners (Elementary–Secondary)
- An Educator's Guide to Professional Assessments and Diagnostics

Experienced professionals in Occupational Therapy, Speech-Language Pathology, Behaviour Therapy, and Psychology developed the content in these resources, providing educators with evidence-informed information they can readily apply in school settings.

The manuals are currently available on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and will soon be available on the AES-KEB website.



AES Youth Council

In August, the AES Youth Council gathered at Nipissing First Nation for a meaningful day of ceremony, team bonding, and connection with Elder Perry McLeod-Shabogesic. The day gave Council members an opportunity to strengthen their relationships, participate in ceremony, and share ideas about the Youth Council's future direction and priorities. Members discussed upcoming initiatives, ways to increase youth engagement, and opportunities to strengthen connections with youth across the Anishinabek Education System.

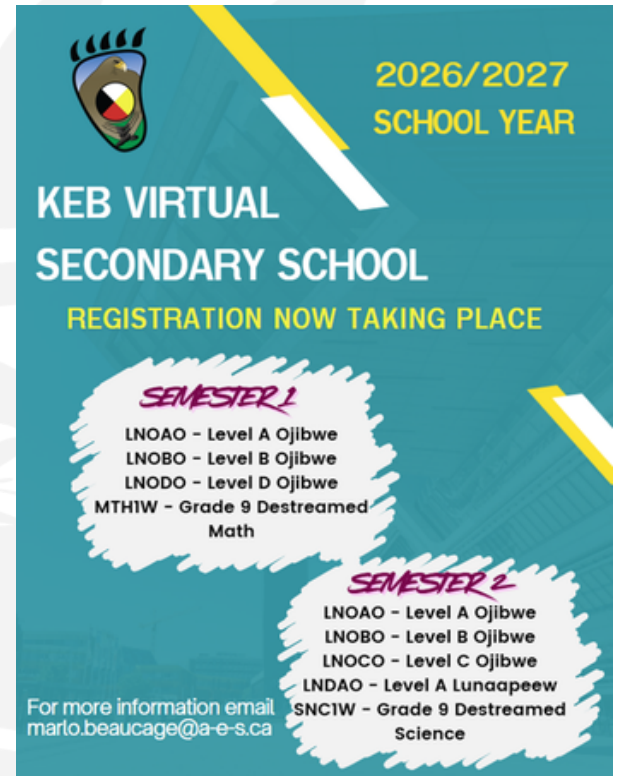
The following day, the Youth Council attended the AES Annual General Meeting at Nipissing High School on Nipissing First Nation. Council members had the opportunity to update Chiefs and Proxies, sharing highlights from the past year and speaking about the Council's ongoing work and priorities. Their participation at the AGM provided an important opportunity for youth voices to be heard and for Council members to connect directly with leadership.



Virtual Secondary School

The KEB is pleased to welcome Mr. Michael McCarville, Mr. Falcon McLeod, and Ms. Cassidy Armstrong as teachers within the Virtual Secondary School for the 2026-2027 school year. We look forward to the valuable contributions they will make in supporting student achievement and educational excellence.

The KEB Virtual Secondary School (VSS) is pleased to share that, during the Summer of 2026, the VSS offered the LNOBO course. In addition, the VSS partnered with Region 2 to offer credits in NAC10 and HSC4M and collaborated with Wahnapiatae First Nation to provide students with credits in AEA30 and NAC20.



2026/2027
SCHOOL YEAR

**KEB VIRTUAL
SECONDARY SCHOOL**

REGISTRATION NOW TAKING PLACE

SEMESTER 1

- LNOAO - Level A Ojibwe
- LNOBO - Level B Ojibwe
- LNODO - Level D Ojibwe
- MTHIW - Grade 9 Destreamed Math

SEMESTER 2

- LNOAO - Level A Ojibwe
- LNOBO - Level B Ojibwe
- LNOCO - Level C Ojibwe
- LNDAA - Level A Lunaapeew
- SNC1W - Grade 9 Destreamed Science

For more information email
marlo.beaucage@a-e-s.ca



For further information, please reach out to the Systems Principal, Marlo Beaucage at marlo.beaucage@a-e-s.ca.

New Staff

Welcome Andrew!

Funding Agreements Manager



Maamaateshiins Ndigoo. I am called Firefly. Andrew A. Manitowabi (BA, BBA) ndizhnakaaz. My name is Andrew Manitowabi. Makwa ndoodem. I am Bear Clan. Wiikwemkoong ndebendaagoz. I belong to Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory. Odawa miinwaa Ojibwe nidaaw. I am Odawa and Ojibwe. I am a father of two daughters and raised my children as a single father. I am a proud Anishinaabe Nini, who practices my language and culture every day. I am currently completing an Executive Master of Business Administration program at the Richard Ivey School of Business (Western). I recently got engaged to my girlfriend, and looking forward to our wedding!

I am endeavoring towards becoming a fluent speaker of our ancestral language, Anishinaabemowin. I dream of my own Anishinaabe Excellence through culture, language, and spirituality, utilizing various forms of storytelling including teachings, ceremonies, and Woodland dance. I seek to bridge Anishinaabe traditions and beliefs with current ways of living, for culture and language revitalization. I like dancing at Pow Wows in summer and snowboarding in the winter. I enjoy travelling all over the Great Lakes region, and spending time with family and friends.

I'm thrilled to start working with KEB as Funding Agreements Manager! Miigwech gii bizindooyik!

Connect with Andrew!



Andrew.Manitowabi@a-e-s.ca

New Staff

Welcome Natalie!

Education Programs & Services Manager

.....



Aaniin

My name is Natalie Barry, and I am honoured to introduce myself as the new Education Programs and Services Manager with KEB.

I am a proud member of Garden River First Nation and have dedicated more than 24 years to First Nations education. Throughout my career, I have had the privilege of serving in teaching, leadership, and administrative roles working alongside students, educators, Elders, community partners and families to support educational success and lifelong learning.

As I begin this new role, my priority is to listen, learn and build relationships with our Participating First Nations. In the short time, since joining KEB, I have already had the opportunity to see firsthand the meaningful work being done. I am excited to contribute to this important work and continue building on the strong relationships and programs already in place.

A little about me - I enjoy spending time with my family, being outdoors, golfing, playing hockey, and travelling. I value lifelong learning and am excited to continue growing both personally and professionally in this new role.

Thank you for the warm welcome I have already received. I look forward to meeting many of you in the weeks and months ahead.

Miigwech.

Natalie Barry

Connect with Natalie!



Natalie.Barry@a-e-s.ca

UPCOMING EVENTS



Education Conference

October 5th and 6th
Thunder Bay, ON

Youth Fall Gathering

October 6th and 7th
Thunder Bay, ON

Fall Regional Meetings

Region 3

October 14th and 15th, 2026

Region 2

October 21st and 22nd, 2026

Region 1

October 28th and 29th, 2026

Region 4

November 4th and 5th, 2026



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