KINOOMAADZIWIN EDUCATION BODY

Annual Report
2022-2023

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Message from the Director of Education



As we close out another year, the staff and Board of the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body (KEB) reflect on the vision of the Anishinabek Education System (AES): "All of our students are confident, successful and strong in their language, culture and traditional knowledge."

There are so many ways this work is being done throughout the AES. In each of the regions, we see community educators, administrators, and leadership collaborating with each other, with local school boards, and with the KEB to bring new opportunities to life for AES students.

In 2022-2023, the KEB made significant growth as an organization, reaching new levels in our capacity to serve the PFNs and in our ability to guide our ever-changing relationships with Canada and Ontario.

Still, there are many priorities to continue working towards in 2023, at a system-wide level and in each individual community. We look forward to continuing this work with the PFNs and all AES partners in the coming year.

Shining Turtle, Enaagdenjget

Message from the Board of Directors



On behalf of the KEB Board of Directors, I'm pleased to present the 2022-2023 Annual Report for the KEB. It is important to acknowledge everyone who has contributed to the many successes of the AES throughout the last year. The amount of work that goes into realizing our strategic goals and objectives is so impressive!

After five years of implementation, we have achieved so much, and we have learned so much. Some of the emerging priorities over the last year focused on youth engagement, language planning, resource development, and land-based learning.

As we move into the next year, we know that the KEB will be heavily focused on the negotiation of the next fiscal agreement with Canada, and the negotiation of the third Multi-Year Action Plan with Ontario.

The KEB Board of Directors is proud of the work that is being accomplished each and every day, in the communities, in our schools, and at the KEB. We hope you enjoy taking a look at everything the last year has brought us.

Phyllis Anderson, KEB Board Chairperson

Our Guiding Vision

Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe



Artwork by Katya Serre

Debenjiged gii'saan Anishinaaben akiing giibi dgwon gaadeni mnidoo waadiziwin.
Shkode, nibi, aki, noodin, giibi dgosdoonan wii naagdowendmang maanpii shkagmigaang.
Debenjiged gii miinaan gechtwaa wendaagog Anishinaaben waanaagdoonjin ninda niizhwaaswi kino maadwinan.
Zaagidwin, Debwewin, Mnaadendmowin, Nbwaakaawin, Dbaadendiziwin, Gwe-kwaadziwin miinwa Aakedhewin.
Debenjiged kiimiingona dedbinwe wi naagdowendiwin
Ka mnaadendanaa gaabi zhiwebag miinwaa nango megwaa ezhwebag, miinwa geyaabi waa ni zhiwebag.

Preamble to the Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin – as adopted by the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council in June 2011

Vision Statement

Gakina ni-gikinoo'amaaganaanig ji-miikwenimowaad, ji-minosewaad, zoongiziwaad, anishinaabemowin, anishinaabewaadiziwin, miinawaa anishinaabe gikendaasowin.

All of our students are confident, successful, and strong in their language, culture, and traditional knowledge.

Mission Statement

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

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

Anishinaabemowin translation of the vision and mission is provided in Lake Nipigon dialect.

Meet the Team

Board of Directors and Sub-Committees

Executive Committee

Phyllis Anderson, Chair
Nipissing First Nation

Robert Beaudin, Vice-Chair
Sheshegwaning First Nation

Stan Sabourin, Treasurer
Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg

Lise Kwekkeboom, Secretary
Chippewas of Rama First Nation

Directors

Nancy Assance
Beausoleil First Nation

Ann Cada-Hamelin
Sheshegwaning First Nation

Marianna Couchie
Nipissing First Nation

Sherry Dayfox
Sheshegwaning First Nation

Judy Desmoulin
Long Lake #58 First Nation

Tim Hardy
Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek

Lisa Michano-Courchene
Biigtigong Nishnaabeg

Linda Peterson
Michipicoten First Nation

Chenoa Plain
Aamjiwnaang First Nation

Carol Stevens
Magnetawan First Nation

2022-2023 HIGHLIGHTS BOARD COMMITTEES

In July 2020, the KEB Board of Directors established four committees to support the work of the Board and to provide enhanced direction to the KEB management team and staff. Since their inception, the Board Committees have created efficiencies in governance processes and enhanced the daily operation of the organization.
In 2022, two new ad hoc committees were struck to support the development of the AES funding distribution formula and the AES student information system.

Finance Committee	Annual budget and financial audit Distribution of education funding
Human Resources Committee	Policy development and maintenance (HR, Health & Safety, Right to Disconnect) Onboarding of the Director of Education Organizational Restructuring
Education Services Committee	Development of an AES education service model
Ad Hoc Governance Committee	Development of the AES Manual Ongoing implementation of the Strategic Plan Board and Committee evaluation
Ad Hoc Funding Distribution Formula Committee	Development of options for the PFNs on the AES funding distribution formula
Ad Hoc PowerSchool Committee	Review of the Student Information System implementation

KEB Staff



Shining Turtle
Enaagdenjget
(Director of Education)



Andrea Crawford
Senior Operations Manager



Nancy O'Donnell
Multi-Year Action Plan Manager



Andrea Wemigwans
Executive Administrative Assistant



Julian Cote
Student Information System
Coordinator



Tammy Desmoulin
Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund
Coordinator



Colleen Sheriff
Special Education Coordinator



Marie Chalykoff
Strategic Initiatives Coordinator



Tracy Hanzlik
Data Management Officer



Carley Lambert
Communications Assistant



Charles Serre
IT Infrastructure Lead



Lisa Wabegijig
Regional Education Council
Coordinator 3



Tammy Moreau
Curriculum Development
Coordinator



Marcia Manitowabi
Finance Officer



Jody Taylor
Communications Officer



Greer Atkinson
Regional Education Council
Coordinator 4



Joshua LeClair
Regional Education Council
Coordinator 1



Kyesha Fong, CHRP
Human Resources Officer



Zachary Beaudette
Language and Culture Lead

Structure of the AES

Local Education Authorities (LEAs)

Each of the Participating First Nations may have an LEA that supports and manages education programs and services at the community level. Throughout the AES, these authorities vary in their composition and their roles, but each one is established by its respective First Nation.

Regional Education Councils (RECs)

The RECs are constant advocates for Anishinabek students. The RECs work collaboratively to identify the regional priorities of the PFNs, which guide the strategic work plans of the KEB. Representatives of the RECs meet regularly throughout the year to provide feedback on various AES projects and initiatives. The RECs also engage with District School Boards at various AES events. This relationship between PFNs and school boards is creating opportunities for joint projects and improved education service delivery to AES students.

Kinoomaadziwin Education Body

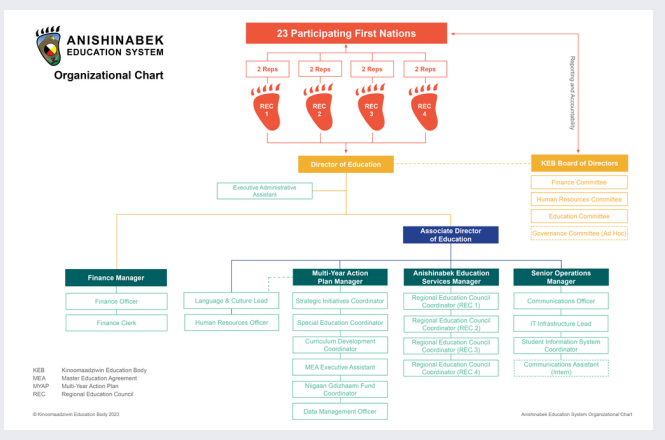
The KEB is the central administrative structure for the AES. As its primary mandate, the KEB administrates the implementation of the Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement and the Master Education Agreement. The KEB currently employs 23 full-time staff and it is governed by a 14-member Board of Directors.

The organizational structure of the KEB was amended in October 2022 and January 2023, by the Board of Directors. In October, the amendment was made to approve a new position to the structure - a Human Resources Officer. In January, the changes included a realignment of staff and management positions, and the addition of an Associate Director of Education.

The Associate Director of Education will support the Director of Education (Enaagdenjget) to focus on the KEB's strategic vision and planning. This position will also support the management team with the implementation of annual workplans.

Participating First Nations

Aamjiwnaang First Nation
Atikameksheng Anishnawbek
Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation
Beausoleil First Nation
Biigtigong Nishnaabeg
Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek
Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation
Chippewas of Rama First Nation
Dokis First Nation
Henvey Inlet First Nation
Long Lake #58 First Nation
Magnewatan First Nation
Michipicoten First Nation
Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation
Moose Deer Point First Nation
Munsee-Delaware Nation
Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg
Nipissing First Nation
Sheshegwaning First Nation
Wahnapitae First Nation
Wausauksing First Nation
Whitefish River First Nation
Zhiibaahaasing First Nation



Implementation of the Agreements

Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement

Negotiation of the next financial agreement for education self-government for the AES started in April 2021. Throughout the last fiscal year, the negotiation team for the KEB met regularly with Canada to continue negotiating on various funding priorities, including but not limited to:

- Additional governance funding
- Education Major Capital
- Human resource capacity
- Language and culture
- Technology and infrastructure
- Tuition and student supports
- Mental health
- Special education
- Research and evaluation

The KEB held monthly sessions to secure feedback from the PFNs on the negotiation priorities. Each session was open to leadership, finance, and education staff. The sessions continue to inform the negotiators, who bring the funding priorities forward at monthly negotiation meetings with Canada.

In 2022-2023 the KEB negotiations team welcomed three new regional representatives from the PFNs. The representatives attend the negotiation meetings to provide feedback on negotiation matters and to advocate for regional education funding priorities. The PFN representatives for each region are:

- REC 1 - Lisa Michano-Courchene
- REC 2 - To be confirmed in May 2023
- REC 3 - Nancy Allaire
- REC 4 - Lise Kwekkeboom

Master Education Agreement

To support the implementation of the Master Education Agreement, there are 14 projects in the 2021-2024 Multi-Year Action Plan (MYAP). These projects are funded by the Province of Ontario and supported by the Ministry of Education. The KEB team works closely with the Indigenous Education Office to meet the deliverables of the 2021-2024 MYAP. Now in year two of the MYAP, each of the projects is moving forward and evaluated through the "Learning As We Go" evaluation framework. To learn more about the 14 projects of the 2021-2024 MYAP, please visit aes-keb.com/logic-model/.



Joint Master Education Agreement Committee

This body oversees the work of the MYAP and ensures alignment with the Master Education Agreement. Quarterly reports provide a summary of updates, challenges, and solutions about the activities and initiatives of the MYAP throughout the year. A sub-working group of the JMEAC, called the Technical Table, manages the work of the MYAP and each project within it. The **JMEAC met 4 times in 2022-2023**, and had its first in-person meeting since 2019, in October 2022.



Financial Overview

Implementation of the Fiscal Agreements

The Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement and the Master Education Agreement are each accompanied by its own funding agreement.

On an annual basis, the KEB manages the implementation of these agreements, ensures the transfer of education funding to the PFNs, and completes financial reporting requirements for Canada and Ontario.

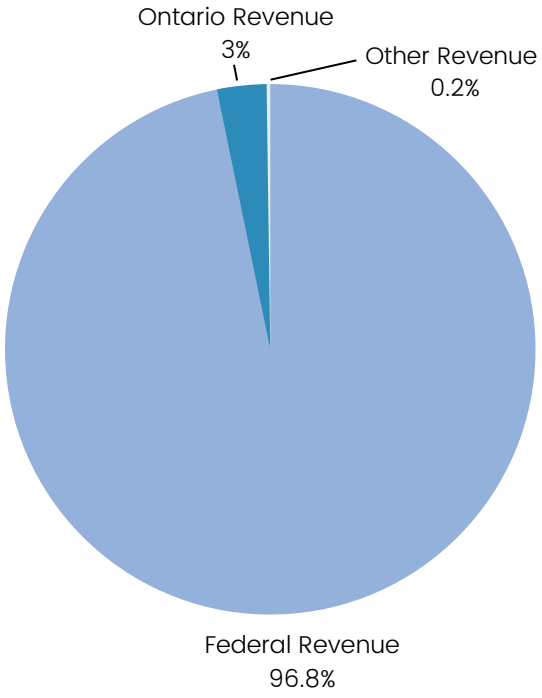
2022-2023 Financial Statements

The Audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year 2022-2023 were completed by KPMG and approved by the Board of Directors. Community-level projects supported this year included:

- 23 Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund projects
- 2 Learning as We Go pilots
- 2 Graduation Coach pilots
- 5 Aaniish Naa Gegii pilots
- 4 Ezhi Kendmang Anishnaabe Naadziwin pilots

Revenues and Expenses
April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023

REVENUES	
CIRNAC Grants	$ 79,048,892
Indigenous Services Canada	$ 12,130,576
Canadian Heritage	$ 54,519
Other Federal Departments	$ 35,260
Total Federal Revenue	**$ 91,269,247**
Ministry of Education	$ 2,874,345
Ontario Arts Council	$ (40,860)
Total Provincial Funding	**$ 2,833,485**
Other Funding	$ 208,805
Total Revenues	**$ 94,311,537**
EXPENSES	
Transfers to PFNs	**$ 89,795,819**
Administration and Overheads	$ 2,236,760
Support Services	$ 1,427,399
Meetings and Communications	$ 613,332
Information Technology	$ 188,654
Total Administered by the KEB	**$ 4,466,145**
Total Expenses	**$ 94,261,964**



Operational & Strategic Plan Highlights



In June 2022, the PFN leadership approved the implementation of a five-year strategic plan for the AES and the KEB. An implementation plan for the first year of the strategic plan guided the KEB staff and Board throughout the year to ensure continual progress. Below are some of the activities that supported the Strategic Plan in 2022-2023.

Click on the thumbnail to view the 2022-2027 AES Strategic Plan!

Student Count and Funding Formula Meeting

On March 2, 2023, the leadership of the PFNs gathered for important discussions related to the AES student count and the development of a funding distribution formula. Two resolutions were passed at the meeting. One provided direction on the standardized process for reporting on learners on an annual basis. The second resolution directed the KEB on the next steps in the development of a funding distribution formula. The KEB is working with an ad hoc committee of PFN representatives to continue working on the funding distribution formula for the AES. A report on progress will be shared with the PFNs in June 2023.

Capital Needs Assessment

The KEB completed the final stages of work with First Nations Engineering Services Ltd and FHR Inc. for the AES Capital Needs Assessment. In the summer and fall of 2022, community meetings took place with the consultants and PFN representatives to review each First Nation's individual capital needs report. The report for each PFN identifies 5, 10, and 15-year cost projections for major capital, minor capital, and operations and maintenance. The final summary report for the AES was completed in February, with final Board approval in March 2023.

The AES Capital Needs Assessment is now being used by the KEB negotiations team to pursue education major capital and operations and maintenance in the AES Financial Agreement.

Board and Staff Gathering

The KEB Board of Directors and staff gathered together at the end of September to focus on strategic planning, relationship building, and communication. The team took time to welcome the Director of Education to the KEB with a traditional Blanket Ceremony. Outcomes from the gathering:

1. Development of a one-year implementation plan that supports the AES Strategic Plan.
2. Relationship building between KEB Staff, Board of Directors, key consultants, and the new Director of Education.
3. Professional development to increase KEB board and staff knowledge of Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe.
4. Planning and preparation for enhanced organizational effectiveness (streamlined operations and governance).





Ventilation Improvement Project

In spring 2022, the KEB received notice of funding from Canada to support ventilation improvements to education buildings and band buildings in PFNs. Each PFN received a funding allocation to support their ventilations projects, with additional allocation funds available to communities as needed.
The KEB contracted Sheila Marasco as a project manager to oversee the project activities and to support communities with funding expenditures and reporting. An extension on the ventilation improvement project to March 2023 enabled the PFNs to complete their projects.

21 PFNs completed ventilation projects in 2022-2023

A total of

$ 2,290,164.00

expended on ventilation improvements in AES schools and community buildings

AES Scholarship & Award Program

The second year of the AES Scholarship and Award Program was implemented in 2022-2023, in partnership with the Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity. Dedicated to maximizing the learning journeys of Anishinabek students, the scholarship and award program honours and celebrates the many educational achievements of Anishinabek students and educators in three categories:

- Academic Achievement Scholarship
- Murial Sawyer Nishnaabemwin Memorial Scholarship
- Educator Excellence Award



The 2022-2023 AES Scholarship and Award Program recipients were:

- Alex Hebert - Dokis First Nation
- Annika Finlayson - Long Lake #58 First Nation
- Caleb Langlois - Nipissing First Nation
- Madyson Biladeau - Wahnapitae First Nation
- Taylor Sanford - Beausoleil
- Zoe Nielson - Beausoleil First Nation
- Candace Fisher - Nipissing First Nation

Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan

In December 2022, the KEB received confirmation that the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan employer designation was approved for Biigtigong Nishnaabeg, Long Lake #58 First Nation, and the KEB. The designation became effective January 1, 2023. The designation enables Ontario College of Teachers qualified employees of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg, Long Lake #58 First Nation, and the KEB to contribute to the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan.

MYAP Highlights

AES Student Data and Information Sharing

A significant milestone was achieved in 2022-2023, with the sharing of the first set of AES student data from the Ministry of Education. The Data and Information Sharing Agreement enables the KEB, PFNs, and Ontario to share data sets that offer vital information for long-term education planning.

The KEB has been supporting PFNs since 2019 to collect consent forms from parents and students aged 16 or older, who attend AES schools and provincially-funded schools. The first data set shared by Ontario was received in November 2022 and is being reviewed and analyzed by the Data Management Officer. The data set represents **314** AES students.

KEB Virtual Secondary School

The KEB's application to operate a private virtual high school was approved in September 2022. The first course offering occurred in February 2023, which was a Level A Ojibwe language course. Currently, 25 students are registered. Future course offerings will include Level B Ojibwe in July 2023.

Addressing Racism and Inequities in School

On January 26, 2023, the AES launched a new tool for students, parents, families, and staff to report incidents of anti-Indigenous racism that take place in education settings. The AES Reporting Racism Tool was created in response to requests from the First Nations to offer support to families when faced with incidents of racism.
The development of the tool was led by the AES Addressing Racism Committee, which consists of KEB, PFN, District School Board, and Ministry of Education representatives.

Learn more about the Reporting Racism Tool here:
www.aes-keb.com/addressingracism



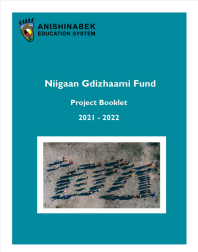
Special Education

In December, the KEB's Special Education Coordinator initiated a professional development series with Dr. Layla Hall. One session was hosted monthly until April 2023. The sessions covered a range of special education topics, including:

- Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Supporting Students with In-utero Drug and Alcohol Exposure
- Supporting Students with Learning Disability, ADHD, and Behaviours that Challenge
- The Assessment Process and Interpreting Psychology Reports in the School Setting

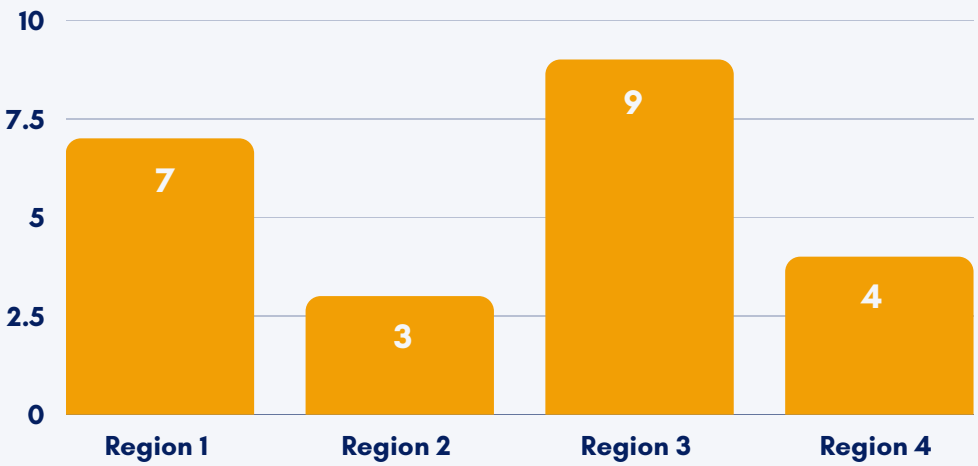
Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund

The Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund (the Fund) is a project supported through the Master Education Agreement's Transfer Payment Agreement and is part of the Multi-Year Action Plan. The objective of the Fund is to support and invest in community and joint projects, that advance the objectives of the Master Education Agreement. In its fifth year, the 2022-2023 Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund **supported 23 proposals**, for a total of **$ 929,294.00**.



Read about the 2021-2022 projects here:

https://aes-keb.com/ng-fund/



2021-2022 Trending Projects

Education counselor / Student supports

Cultural knowledge in schools / Cultural advisors

Language revitalization

Land based learning opportunities / Curriculum development



Youth Council and Leadership

Starting in November 2022, the KEB hosted a monthly Youth Council Leadership series on Zoom. Youth were invited to attend each session to learn about the AES and the development of a youth council. At each session, youth heard about the structure and role of the youth council, and about the stand-up election process that will be adopted to elect the first AES Youth Council. Throughout the year, **96 youth** showed an interest in learning about the youth council. The first AES Youth Council election is anticipated to occur on April 5, 2023, at the 8th annual Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum.

Community Highlights

Regional Education Council 1

Biigtigong builds new school!

Biigtigong Nishnaabeg Endzhi-gkinoohmaading is preparing for its new home for elementary students from kindergarten to grade 8.
The construction on a new school started in June 2022 and is expected to be complete by the summer of 2023. The new building will provide a larger space, nearly **30,000 square feet**, that will accommodate up to 175 students and eliminate the need for portables.
This modern teaching facility will be a launchpad for students to pursue their dreams, while also acting as a conduit where cultural heritage can be shared with the next generation.



old school



breaking ground



new building frame

Regional Engagement Framework Agreement

REC 1 continues to work towards the completion of a regional Engagement Framework Agreement with Superior Greenstone District School Board.

The process of developing the Engagement Framework Agreement began in 2020. The agreement will establish a commitment between the Parties on how they will engage one another in consultation and decision-making related to matters that affect AES students in Superior Greenstone schools and in First Nation schools.

The communities anticipate the final draft agreement in Spring 2023, with a formal ceremony planned for September 2023.

The Engagement Framework Agreement is the **FIRST** of its kind to be established between a group of education self-governing First Nations and an Ontario District School Board.

Netmisakomik Centre of Education

The REC Coordinator for Region 1 visited Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg in September 2022, to meet with students and staff, and to learn about the school. Netmisakomik Centre of Education maintains a living mural, which is an interactive map of the territory of Netmizaaggamig. The mural welcomes everyone into the school, and reminds everyone of 'Minobimaadziwin - It's a Good Life.' Highlights of the community visit included joining the JK & SK class for morning reading, and the grades 5 & 6 class for a reflective journey exercise.





Regional Education Council 2

Sheshegwaning Fall Harvest Festival

St. Joseph's Anishinabek School in Sheshegwaning First Nation was the host of Sheshegwaning First Nation's Fall Harvest Festival on October 18, 2022. The school invited guests from surrounding communities to join the event.

Presenters included local Knowledge Keepers, Odawa Fish Farms, and Neil Debassige. Among the activities offered at the festival were an array of harvesting demonstrations, food preparations, and cooking. The Fall Harvest Festival was supported by Zhiibaahaasing First Nation, which set up a food booth with delicious homemade chili, scone, and cedar tea. The Grade 6, 7 & 8 classes also demonstrated their baking expertise with a variety of tasty muffins.

The community of Sheshegwaning and St. Joseph's Anishinabek School were so appreciative of all participants and observers, the presenters and knowledge keepers and the volunteers that made the Fall Harvest Festival a great success!



Odawa Fish Farm staff demonstrate fileting techniques



Neil Debassige, Fuel the Fire, provides hunting knowledge

Shawanosowe Bobcat Run!

On October 12, 2022, 370 runners from 11 schools from Manitoulin and Espanola gathered for Shawanosowe School's annual Running Wild with the Bobcats cross-country competition. The event is hosted by Whitefish River First Nation's Shawanosowe School. The runs varied from 400 meters to 3.5 km - all built on trails within the traditional territory of the community. This year, there were no winners or losers, just everyone enjoying an event that promotes healthy living and well-being.









Regional Community Visits

In August 2022, REC Coordinator Deanna Heyde visited with four of the six PFNs in the region. As a new REC Coordinator for the region, Deanna met with PFN representatives, some leadership, and education staff. The visits were an opportunity for the PFNs to share information that was used to inform regional planning for the year.

Regional Education Council 3

Traditional Teachings in Nbisiing

On February 8, 2023, students in the Outdoor Education class at Nbisiing Secondary School were taught how to prep moose legs to make bags. The bone from the moose leg was used to create scrapers and awls for the students. They kept the tendons from the moose to make sinew, and hooves to make rattles during a future project. These teachings were led by two Nipissing First Nation women, Brenda and Audrey. Nbisiing Secondary School is proud of the efforts that go into making sure their students continue to learn traditional ways.







Ezhi Kendmang Anishnaabe Naadziwin

Wasauksing First Nation hosted a two-day training session on March 1 & 2, 2023. The session was held as part of a pilot implementation for Ezhi Kendmang Anishnaabe Naadziwin (EKAN), in partnership with the Near North District School Board (NNDSB).

The intent of the training is to support the cultural competency development of educators and education staff working in schools with AES students under Education Service Agreements, and in AES communities. The program offers an opportunity to "learn together."

This was the pilot's fifth and final session, supported by facilitators Maurice Switzer Bnesi, from the Mississaugas of Alderville First Nation, and Waabkanii Kwe, Christine King, from Wasauksing First Nation.




Community Profile Books

One of the goals of the AES is to make positive advances in the development of culturally relevant curriculum and educational programs. The Community Profile Books/Teacher's Guide will promote and provide accurate historical and culturally authentic information about the seven PFNs in REC 3.

For each PFN, this project will produce digital manuscripts, printed books, as well as an accessible online book.

Each of the communities is working on their draft manuscripts and are at different stages of development. Three of the First Nations received funding under the Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund in 2022-2023 to support their book. These three PFNs will lead the completion of their books in 2023-2024.

Regional Education Council 4

Summer programming wins!

Many summer learning programs took place throughout REC 4 in 2022, for students enrolled in both elementary and secondary school. Great partnerships were established with District School Boards and PFNs, which saw some learning programs build on the previous summer's programs and partnerships.

Beausoleil First Nation ran two camps. Grade four students took part in a hands-on math program delivered in partnership with the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board. Continuing from last year's summer learning program, grade 8 students were also able to complete summer Reach Ahead credits in geography and science with the School Board and Water First.





Aamjiwnaang Maple Sap Teachings

In March 2023, Aamjiwnaang First Nation's elementary school and pre-school invited their students outdoors to learn about their connection to the plant world. They learned about creation stories and teachings about the sacred and important role of the maple trees.

A sugar bush teaching was led by a community family that has been practicing the tradition of harvesting maple sap for 13 years.

The trees in the community of Aamjiwnaang are estimated to be between 80-90 years old, and the trees have plugs in high branches that confirm stories of harvesting for generations.





Language Revitalization and Land-Based Learning

The region was heavily focused on language and land-based learning throughout the year. In addition to planning for their own land-based learning conference in April 2023, REC 4 also attended a gathering hosted by the Ogemawahj Tribal Council in June 2022. The gathering welcomed early learning staff, District School Board and First Nation school teachers, and post-secondary staff. The group spent two days sharing resources and discussing approaches to regional language supports and initiatives.



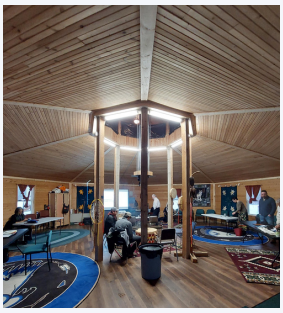


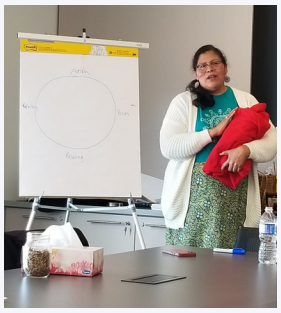


Language and Culture

In March 2023, the KEB signed a multi-year funding agreement with Canadian Heritage to support language and culture initiatives throughout the AES until March 31, 2025. The project will support language and culture work in the following areas:

Development of AES Comprehensive, Action-Based Language Strategy | Maintenance of a Language and Culture Resource Repository | Regional Language Supports | Anishinabek Resource Development Retreats | Annual Language and Culture Gatherings





Regional meetings were held in March 2023 with a specific focus on language revitalization strategies. Language speakers and education staff were invited to sessions that enabled each group to identify language priorities and language revitalization activities. Additional meetings and implementation of each region's identified activities will continue throughout the new fiscal year.

Nbisiing Secondary School, in partnership with the KEB, hosted a Nishnaabemwin Promotion Camp bringing together students from Nbisiing and St. Joseph-Scollard Hall Catholic Secondary School. The students heard from Elders and language carriers who hoped to inspire the next generation of Nishnaabemwin speakers.







The KEB shared new Anishinaabe language resources with PFNs in 2022-2023. The Curriculum Development Coordinator produced four Anishinaabemowin resources for educators, which were shared as pilots with the PFN schools.

The PFNs also received holiday language booklets for Christmas, Valentine's Day, and Easter. The booklets are available to PFNs and can be customized to local Anishinaabemowin dialects or Lenape, as needed.

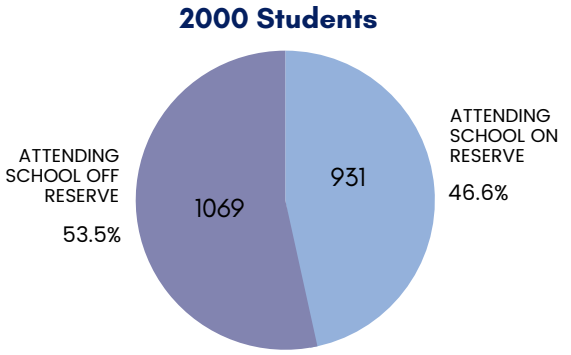
Anishinaabemowin learning is also a priority for KEB staff. Throughout the year, the KEB's Language and Culture Lead provided micro language lessons at bi-weekly staff meetings. Miigwech Zachary!

AES Education Data

Education data is collected through the Student Count and Education Data Survey. The survey collects information related to student enrollment, school data, and programs/services.

The survey was revised in October 2022, to support the collection and analysis of longitudinal data. The information collected from is used to identify trends in student populations and informs annual education funding.

The KEB also collects information from each of the projects and initiatives under the Multi-Year Action Plan. Below is a summary of results from the student-related data that was collected in 2022-2023.



Total number of reported JK-12 students, residing on-reserve, in the 2022-2023 academic year.

AES Students Attending Schools Off-Reserve:

Total number of reported JK-12 students, by grade, residing on-reserve and attending school off-reserve in the 2022-2023 academic year.

JK	SK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	JK-12 TOTAL 2022
36	46	55	62	59	62	60	70	78	71	109	116	121	124	**1069**

AES Students Attending Schools On-Reserve:

Total number of reported JK-12 students, by grade, residing on-reserve and attending school on-reserve in the 2022-2023 academic year.

JK	SK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Home schooled	JK-12 TOTAL 2022
71	99	78	83	87	83	72	60	55	54	53	26	30	58	22	**931**

2021-2022 Graduation Totals

Total number of reported SK, Grade 8, and Grade 12 students, residing on-reserve, who graduated in the 2021-2022 academic year.



	Senior Kindergarten	Grade 8	Grade 12	TOTAL
2021	**95**	**96**	**62**	**253**
2022	**102**	**91**	**74**	**267**

Source: Data as reported in Fall 2022 Student Count and Education Data Survey. 21 PFNs responded to this question.

Reach Ahead Programs

The KEB implemented the Reach Ahead Program in AES secondary schools 2021-2022, to support students with attaining credits through a locally designed and delivered program.

3 AES schools offered Reach Ahead Programs last year!

- Biigtigong Nishnaabeg
- Chippewas of Rama First Nation
- Biinijitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek

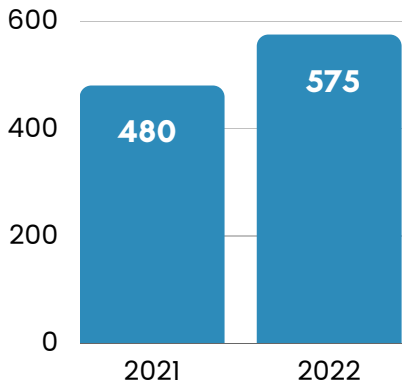
65 students enrolled in AES Reach Ahead programs

16 District School Boards that participated in AES Reach Ahead programs

33 students earned a credit in the Level A Ojibwe Language course!

Language Programming

Twenty PFNs reported ***575 students*** participating in language programming across the AES, in 2021-2022.
Language programming is offered in various forms, including: in classrooms, online, at local community centres, and as part of land-based learning initiatives.



Student-Teacher Ratio



12 : 1

*Represents an average of 12 students for every teacher in AES schools

78
Full-time OCT-Qualified Teachers employed in AES schools

16
Special Education teachers employed in AES schools

10
Language teachers employed in AES schools

Based on data from 11 out of 13 PFNs with schools

Post-Secondary Education Students

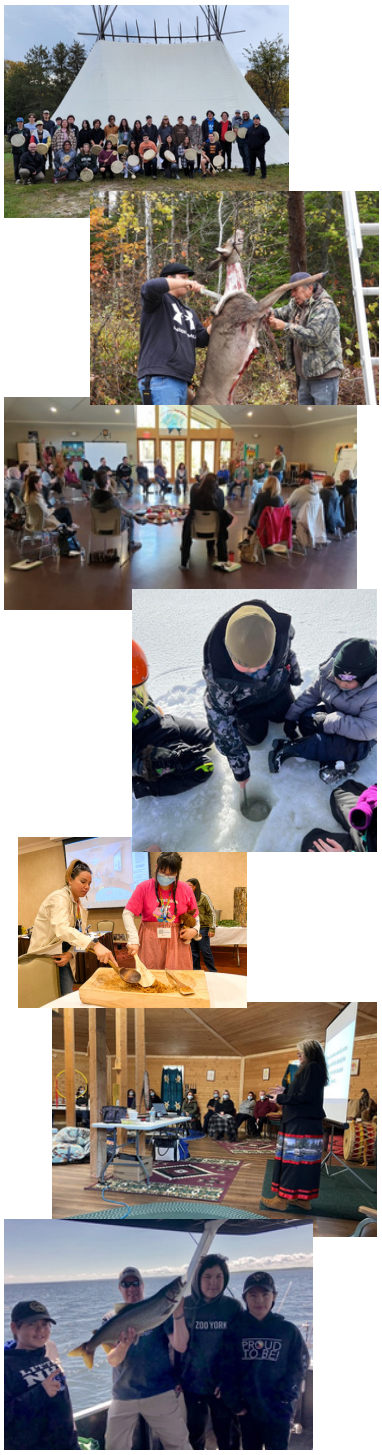
	2021	2022
Full-Time Students	**707**	**724**

Nineteen PFNs reported that they supported ***724 full-time post-secondary education students*** in the 2021-2022 academic year. These PFNs also supported 88 part-time students in the same academic year.

Prioritizing Student Success and Well-Being

Each year at the Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum, AES youth participate in a youth-focused gathering that encourages students to identify their own education needs and priorities. In these platforms, youth share their educational experiences and discuss opportunities and solutions to address their needs. Through various efforts, many youth-identified priorities are responded to each year, with positive outcomes that continue to support student success and well-being, Anishinaabe Aadziwin, and Anishinaabe Bimaadziwin.

What We Heard from Youth	What We Offered
Need language classes, and more Indigenous language teachers (must be Indigenous language teachers teaching Indigenous language classes)	• 3 language classes have been offered by the KEB with 75 students enrolled • 4 language revitalization projects through the 2021-2022 Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund • 12 projects focused on Anishinaabe Foundations of Learning through the 2021-2022 Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund
Summer learning opportunities: mentors and tutors, summer schooling for extra credits	• 1 Reach Ahead credit offered by the KEB and Biigtigong Nishnaabeg in 2021 • 4 Reach Ahead credits offered by the KEB and PFNs in 2022
Community involvement and cultural involvement in schools	• 7 projects focused on Cultural Knowledge, Cultural Support, and Language Revitalization through the 2021-2022 Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund • 8 projects focused on Land-Based Learning through the 2021-2022 Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund
Cultural training for teachers and staff (handling racism and systemic problems)	• 15 Ezhi Kendmaang Anishinaabe Naadziwin cultural training modules were completed across the AES in 2021-2022 • 73 % of 30 participants in REC 1 reported an increased knowledge of Anishinaabe history, culture, and perspectives • 94 % of 35 participants in REC 4 reported being more comfortable in making connections between Anishinabek culture, history, and contemporary experiences to Ontario Curriculum



Niigaan Gdizhaami

We Are Moving Forward Together

One of the best parts about the closing of another fiscal year, is taking the opportunity to reflect on our collective achievements - big and small. In those achievements, are the kinds of moments that matter most...

the moment when a student learns to harvest birchbark for the first time...
the moment when an Elder shares their knowledge with an entire classroom of youth...
the moment when a school board and First Nation form a new partnership...
the moment when you hear Anishinaabemowin in the hallways of the school...

There are SO MANY moments that motivate our daily work as individuals, as teams, as communities, and as an education system. The youth depend on the AES to create impactful change that will make their educational journeys better. The staff and Board of the KEB accept that responsibility with passion and commitment.

We are grateful for the ongoing support, collaboration, and direction of the PFNs throughout the year and we look forward to the year ahead!







FOLLOW US!

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