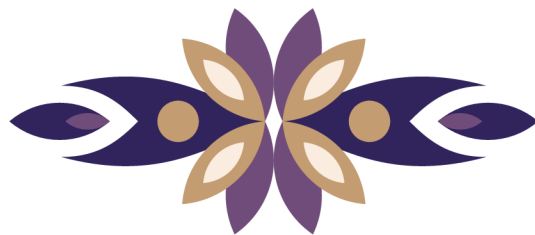




2025

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



ANNUAL REPORT



KOGANAAWSAWIN ANNUAL REPORT

2024-25

STATEMENT FROM THE GRAND COUNCIL CHIEF

It is important our children see themselves in a system they're in and a part of – the Anishinabek Child, Youth, and Family Well-Being System was always a goal and dream for the Anishinabek Nation.

At the foundation of our System is the *Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law*. The Law acknowledges, respects, and supports the primary role of the parents, guardians, families, and communities in safeguarding and promoting the well-being of Anishinaabe children and youth.

As a Law drafted under First Nations' inherent jurisdiction with input from our citizens residing on and off-territory, the First Nations choosing to enact this Law for their communities are the lawmakers; they will be responsible for the delivery of child and family services for Anishinabek families.

On the Anishinabek Nation's path to self-government, our Child Well-Being Team is negotiating a main table tripartite self-government agreement and supporting bilateral fiscal agreements with the Province of Ontario, and the Government of Canada in the area of child, youth, and family well-being. Our approach is grounded in Anishinaabe law and governed by inherent rights, free from externally imposed legislative frameworks.

Through our Law and the self-government agreement, we will continue to reaffirm the foundational truth that Anishinabek First Nations are sovereign Nations. Through our System, we will continue Koganaawsawin (raising up our children).



STATEMENT FROM THE CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER

Our children deserve to grow up surrounded by love, culture, and community – supported by a system rooted in prevention, built by us for us. [The work of Koganaawsawin] affirms what our Nations have always known: that our communities are the best place to care for and protect our children.

Significant progress has been made through the First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle Settlement. Court decisions, like *Linck v. Walpole Island First Nation*, confirm that First Nations must be treated as partners in decisions about our children – with full access to information and meaningful involvement at every step.

Before any decisions are made about a child, there must be a clear, community-supported plan rooted in prevention. Reunification with family must be the goal whenever possible. Transforming these systems will take time, care, and collective determination. But we are moving forward – because our children come first with Koganaawsawin.



STATEMENT FROM THE DIRECTOR

Leadership all across Turtle Island commonly say that we have never given up our jurisdiction over the care of our families or children, and that's true. We are [working towards] systemic change – really [making] a difference, and creating an opportunity for communities to lead what the programs and services look like for our families.

In the past year, our team has developed a draft community standards document to further support Nations enacting the Law – providing draft standards that can be tailored with support from the Koganaawsawin Team to meet the unique needs of each community. To date, 22 Nations have chosen to enact the Law within the communities.

As a collective, we remain dedicated to creating an environment that will see our children and families' connection to their communities grow. Members of the Koganaawsawin Team continue engagements and presentations with the other 17 communities on the Law – a Law that acknowledges, respects, and supports the primary role of the parents, guardians, families, and communities in safeguarding and promoting the well-being of Anishinaabe children and youth.

Our path forward continues to be built on the strength of the Anishinaabe knowledge and values that exists within our Nations. The following annual report provides a summary of highlights and accomplishments made by the Koganaawsawin Team over the 2024-25 year.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Consisting of two directors per region, the eight directors of the Koganaawsawin Board of Directors manage and administer the affairs of the not-for-profit corporation.

BEZHIK - REGION ONE



Helen Angela Paavola
Chair
Namaygoosisagagun



Judy Desmoulin
Long Lake #58

NIIZH - REGION TWO



Elvis Mishibinijima
Sheguiandah



Irene Kells
Zhiibaahaasing

NSWI - REGION THREE



April Cardinal
Secretary
Wahnapiatae



Myrna Burnside
Moose Deer Point

NIIWIN - REGION FOUR



PJ Sandy
Vice-Chair
Beausoleil



Roscoe Albert
Treasurer
Munsee-Delaware

MEET THE TEAM



Each member of the Koganaawsawin Team contributes their knowledge and skills with mutual respect, openness and understanding; collaborating as a cohesive unit that works together to support our member First Nations.



Stan Cloud
Director



Brandie Fong
Manager of Social and
Koganaawsawin



Christine Babinski
Office Administrator



Wendy French
Child and Family
Services Coordinator



Greg Miller
Child and Family
Services Coordinator



Grant Peltier
Repatriation
Coordinator



Victoria Racette
Manager of Communications
and Circle Process



Brady Gunn
Software Developer



Sara Milian
Circle Process Navigator



Renee Pervais
Circle Process Navigator



Katrina Langevin
Lead Negotiator



Noreen Conway
Band Representative
Liaison



Kailee Dupuis
Children's
Commissioner Liaison



Lori Griffith
Finance Analyst



Ronnie Teresinski
Prevention Services
Coordinator

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT



Vicki Niles
Family Well-Being
Coordinator



Brady Penasse
Youth Program
Coordinator



Tracy Robinson
Family Well-Being and
MMIWG Coordinator

OFFICE OF THE CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER



Duke Peltier
Children's Commissioner

RAISING UP OUR CHILDREN

Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law

Through a seven-year community consultation process, the Anishinabek Nation drafted the *Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law* under First Nations' inherent jurisdiction to child and youth well-being, and family unity.

In 2015, the Anishinabek Nation Chiefs-in-Assembly approved the Law in-principle and directed the Anishinabek Nation to present the Law to its 39 member First Nations for their individual review and approval.

To date, 22 Anishinabek First Nations have chosen to enact the Law in their communities. The Law acknowledges, respects, and supports the primary role of the parents, guardians, families, and communities in safeguarding and promoting the well-being of Anishinaabe children and youth.

Each First Nation sets the parameters under which their children, youth, and families are to be served that respects the prevention first principle and ensures First Nation Community Standards are adhered to.

Anishinabek Child, Youth, and Family Well-Being System

Consisting of Anishinabek First Nations that enact the *Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law*, child well-being agencies, Koganaawsawin, and the Anishinabek Nation Children's Commissioner; Anishinabek First Nations can choose to enact the Law at any time.

Koganaawsawin continues to meet with, and support, all 39 Nations in the area of child, youth, and family well-being.

"Our children are so important, they are blessings from the Creator. We have [a] responsibility as parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles, and cousins to help raise that child to be a leader and to keep our Anishinaabe strong," said Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige. "When we work together, we are stronger. We look forward to continuing this very important, vital and critical work for our children – we can help them have the best future possible."



Through a seven-year community consultation process, the Anishinabek Nation drafted the *Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law* under First Nations' inherent jurisdiction to child and youth well-being, and family unity.

In 2015, the Chiefs-in-Assembly approved the Law in-principle and directed the Anishinabek Nation to present the Law to its 39 member First Nations for their individual review and approval.

To date, 22 Anishinabek First Nations have chosen to enact the Law.

Is your community interested in learning more about the Law, and System? Our Team is ready to meet with you!

To request a presentation, contact us:



koganaawsawin
@anishinabek.ca

ENACTING

the *Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law*, and the Anishinabek Child, Youth, and Family Well-Being System

1. MEET

Koganaawsawin meets with Anishinabek Chiefs, Councils and communities to provide information and answer questions about the Law.



2. DECIDE

Anishinabek First Nation Chiefs and Councils decide to enact the Law through their community's law-making process.



3. SIGN

Koganaawsawin and the Anishinabek First Nation sign a community agreement, outlining the responsibilities of Koganaawsawin and the community.



4. ESTABLISH

Koganaawsawin works with Anishinabek communities to establish community standards, and a Child & Family Services Committee.



5. RATIFY

Ratification of the Agreement, following the conclusion of negotiations with Canada and Ontario in the area of child, youth, and family well-being.



6. IMPLEMENT

Begin implementation of the System.

**Implementation of the Law can begin at any step of this process after signing a community agreement (step three).*



7. SELF-GOVERN

Become self-governing in the area of child, youth, and family well-being.



MAIN TABLE NEGOTIATIONS

In June 2024, Ontario's negotiation team advised that they would be taking a break from the table to conduct internal reviews. Anishinabek Nation and Canada did not hear from Ontario following that announcement and decided in October 2024 to convert the Tripartite Agreement to a Bilateral Agreement to keep momentum going at the negotiating table.

This process involved removing references to Ontario from the Agreement. Anishinabek Nation and Canada negotiated together bilaterally until December 2024. In December, Ontario announced that they were ready to return to the negotiation table but that they were only mandated to negotiate a Tripartite Agreement.

Ontario was called into "caretaker mode" in January 2025 due to the provincial election. Canada was then called into "caretaker mode" in March 2025 for the federal election. The governments cannot negotiate while in caretaker mode, so negotiations were paused for that time. Anishinabek Nation then conducted its own internal matters related to negotiations from April to September 2025.

As such, negotiations did not substantially occur from January to September 2025.

All parties returned to the negotiating table on September 4, 2025. Canada has returned with eight new team members, Ontario has returned with one new team member, and Anishinabek Nation's team is now as follows:

- Katrina Langevin, Lead Negotiator
- Jide Afolabi, Fiscal Negotiator
- Stan Cloud, Director of Social Development and Koganaawsawin
- Lori Griffith, Finance Analyst
- Ronnie Teresinski, Prevention Services Coordinator

The parties will be focused on converting the Bilateral Agreement back into a Tripartite Agreement, and then on all supporting documentation for the Agreement as set out in the workplan.

In December 2024, Indigenous Services Canada took the position that *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* (the Federal Act) must apply to our self-government agreement. The application of the Federal Act will change the agreement from a Self-Government Agreement to a Coordination Agreement (Bill C-92).

The Anishinabek Nation's negotiations team has held to the position that the Federal Act cannot apply to this agreement as our First Nations are pursuing true self-government.

Anishinabek Nation has drafted a position paper to send to Canada and may draft a paper for Grand Council Chief to submit to the Ministers of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) if political pressure is needed.

FISCAL NEGOTIATIONS

The Anishinabek Child, Youth, and Family Well-Being Self-Government Agreement will provide federal and provincial recognition for the child well-being laws that have been passed by participating Anishinabek First Nations. The Agreement will also provide for enhanced funding for prevention services and open the door to the possibility of any desired First Nation changes to protection services.

Last year, as part of this process, the Anishinabek Nation's negotiation team consulted with participating First Nations as well as the other First Nations on possible funding levels. Those consultations resulted in a fiscal request totaling approximately \$190 million.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Child, Youth, and Family Services

The Anishinabek Nation's Child and Family Services (CFS) Program continues to work in close partnership with member Nations to advance the implementation of the *Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law* and the development of community standards. Over the past year, efforts were focused on community engagement, capacity building, and collaborative planning to support self-determination in child, youth, and family well-being.

Throughout the 2024-25 year, the CFS Team actively participated in conferences and working groups to network, share knowledge, and stay informed on current issues impacting First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS). These engagements provided valuable opportunities for advancing and informing the work of Koganaawsawin and the Anishinabek Nation's Social Development Department. Including participation at the:

- Association of Native Child and Family Services Agencies of Ontario (ANCFSAO) Indigenous Child & Family Well-Being Conference (Toronto);
- Anishinabek Nation Manitoulin Island Residential School Survivors Gathering;
- Chiefs of Ontario (COO) Dialogue Session on Long-Term Reform of FNCFS;
- quarterly Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Working Group (CWB) Meetings; and
- collaboration meeting with Nijjaansinaanik Child and Family Services.

The CFS Team has remained responsive and engaged, offering guidance, advocacy, and coordination with numerous First Nation communities across Ontario to share information, provide guidance, and support the implementation of the *Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law* and the development of locally driven community standards. Key community engagements included:

- delivering over 14 community information presentations;
- setting up information booths at community Pow Wow;
- providing follow-up visits and presentations to new elected leadership;
- supporting the planning and logistics for the upcoming Provincial Child Well-Being Conference – Raising Up Our Children, Our Way – scheduled for October 2025; and
- coordinating community outreach and engagements with Chiefs and Councils to raise awareness and build readiness for implementation of the *Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law*.

The CFS Team has also provided direct support and guidance to member communities as they worked to draft community standards that reflect their unique values, traditions, and approaches to child, youth, and family well-being. This work involves ongoing collaboration and engagement with several communities actively developing their standards through meetings, consultations, and facilitated discussions. The CFS Team has remained committed to supporting this process through scheduled in-person visits, virtual meetings, and resource sharing, ensuring each community is engaged and equipped to develop standards that are community-driven.

As the Anishinabek Nation continues to assert jurisdiction over child, youth, and family well-being, the work of the CFS Team reflects commitment to building capacity, strengthening community connections.

Communications

Over the past year, Koganaawsawin launched its main social media channels – Facebook and Bluesky. Content on the channels is centered around:

- Koganaawsawin, e.g., awareness, events, programs, services, news;
- The *Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law*;
- The Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Working Group;
- Negotiations in child, youth, and family well-being with the Government of Canada, and the Government of Ontario;
- Sharing information and events re: child, youth, and family well-being, e.g., from member Anishinabek First Nations, affiliated child well-being agencies, Indigenous organizations; and
- Engagement with target demographics in the area of child, youth, and family well-being, e.g. member Anishinabek First Nations and their citizens.

The channels have been integrated into Koganaawsawin's website (www.koganaawsawin.ca).

We also continued development of the First Nation Representative Portal – a secure web platform for First Nation Representatives serving the 39 member Nations of the Anishinabek Nation. Through the new Portal, Representatives, Chiefs, and leadership gain access to meetings, events, documents, resources, forms, templates, training opportunities, career postings, and contact information for Representatives across the Anishinabek Nation.

Following the Anishinabek Nation's transition to Microsoft 365, the Social Development Department and Koganaawsawin has continued to be an organizational leader in utilizing the new cloud-powered productivity platform and supporting other departments in their migration to the business suite.

We also started preliminary planning for the development of an online Prevention-Focused Customary Care (PFCC) Reporting System. The System will provide a secure and confidential web-based platform to streamline the submission of quarterly reports and provide access to key documents and training opportunities specific to the PFCC Program.

First Nation Representative Support

In October of 2024, Koganaawsawin hosted a successful in-person Provincial First Nation Representative (FNR) Conference. This annual Conference continued to be technician-led, with the overall goal to hear First Nations share their successes and challenges in enhancing their community's First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program.

Attendees included First Nation Representatives, frontline child welfare advocates, social directors, health directors, and First Nation leadership holding social and/or health portfolios.

Over the three-days, topics consisted of:

- suicide prevention and life promotion;
- litigation strategies: duty to consult;
- self-care for frontline workers using the medicine wheel;
- Kids Help Phone;
- the Moushoom and Trout Case Class Action Settlement;
- FNCFS Program funding;
- the Final Agreement on the Long-Term Reform of the FNCFS Program;
- Jordan's Principle; and
- repatriation.

The invaluable best practices shared throughout the three-day Conference will support communities in overcoming barriers – further enabling them to access and deliver the programs and services needed for First Nation children and families to thrive.

Over the past year, the Band Representative Liaison also:

- collaborated with the Anishinabek Educational Institute (AEI) to review curriculum for the First Nation Child Welfare Advocate Program;
- established membership with the AEI Program Advisory Committee for ongoing reviews;
- held FNR Focus Group meetings;
- participated in the First Nations technical table with the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) to review policies and procedures as they relate to legislative changes in the Child, Youth, and Family Services Act (CYFSA);
- provided training for First Nation Representatives;
- maintained the FNR contact list across Anishinabek territory;
- collaborated with the FASD Walk;
- held one-on-one meetings with member Nations regarding First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program funding; and
- participated in the transformation of death review processes for Indigenous children and youth with the Office of the Chief Coroner.

Prevention Services

The 2024-25 fiscal year was a productive and dynamic period. The work of the Prevention Services Coordinator focused on supporting implementation of the *Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law*, strengthening community-based prevention strategies, coordinating with member First Nations across the Northern Superior Region, and advancing the Prevention-Focused Customary Care (PFCC) initiative.

Over the past year, the program Coordinator also:

- attended all internal main table negotiation meetings to provide support and guidance on prevention-related matters, offering input and recommendations to ensure prevention services are embedded in law development framework;
- participated in First Nations technical table meetings relevant to prevention services, including kinship, child and family data services, and legislative developments, e.g., Bill 188 – Supporting Children’s Futures Act;
- served as the child and family services worker for the Northern Superior Region;
- attended all meetings of the Draft Community Standards Committee, and Child and Family Team;
- provided direct support to First Nations in developing and finalizing their community standards under the *Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law*;
- assisted three member Nations with developing their community standards;
- delivered community presentations to five member Nations;
- hosted quarterly virtual meetings with all 39 member Nations;
- held one-on-one meetings with communities for enhanced information sharing and individualized support – key discussion topics included insufficient funding to meet community needs, intake and reporting forms, and development of First Nation-specific policies and procedures;
- engaged with the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) to request additional PFCC funding;
- coordinated submission of a resolution to the Chiefs-in-Assembly for support in securing additional PFCC funding;
- revised reporting forms to be more user-friendly;
- proposed development of an online PFFC reporting system;
- participated in the Provincial First Nation Representative Conference, Governance Summit, Trauma-Informed Care Training, and Child Well-Being Working Group;
- carried the Social Development Department’s bundle, upholding the cultural and spiritual responsibilities associated with its care and use; and
- ensured the bundle was respected and cared for throughout all gatherings, meetings, and community engagements.

This past year has been marked by deep engagement, advocacy, and progress across prevention services. Through collaborative governance, regional service coordination, and the implementation of culturally grounded prevention programs, meaningful steps have been taken to support the well-being of Anishinaabe children, families, and communities.

Repatriation Services

The Repatriation Program is working to advance its commitment to supporting the safe return and cultural reconnection of Anishinaabe children and youth who have been separated from their families and communities due to child welfare involvement or adoption.

Over the past year, the Repatriation Coordinator has actively participated in numerous events, meetings, and engagement sessions to build relationships, raise awareness, and strengthen the foundation of this important work. Key engagements included:

- participation in the Association of Native Child and Family Services Agencies of Ontario (ANCFSAO) Indigenous Child & Family Well-Being Conference (Toronto);

- ongoing involvement in the Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Working Group;
- supporting Koganaawsawin's Provincial First Nation Representative Conference;
- participating in community cultural engagement at Pow Wows and other local events;
- promoting awareness and consultation sessions focused on the Repatriation Program;
- engaging with Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services (KGCFS); and
- attending the Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) Joint Gathering Conference.

The Repatriation Program continues to work with First Nations to identify local needs and priorities in establishing culturally grounded repatriation processes. This includes developing a toolkit and supports that reflect Anishinabek values, traditions, and kinship systems.

Core program components include:

- advocacy and support for children, youth, and families;
- referral services to appropriate programs and service providers;
- program development and capacity-building for communities;
- planning and facilitation of reunification efforts; and
- connecting children and youth to their culture, language, and identity.

Throughout the year, the Repatriation Team engaged in ongoing collaborations and partnerships to support children and youth in their return journeys. Key activities included:

- ongoing dialogue with ISC on repatriation supports;
- collaboration with member Nation to assist with the repatriation of children and youth;
- supporting the planning of the upcoming Provincial Child Well-Being Conference – Raising Up Our Children, Our Way – scheduled for October 2025;
- outreach at significant events, including the Residential School Survivor Gathering in M'Chigeeng First Nation, and the Anishinabek Grand Council Assembly in June 2025; and
- ongoing development of a Repatriation Toolkit to support program implementation across regions.

The Repatriation Coordinator will also be initiating regional visits in the upcoming year, to engage directly with communities across Anishinabek territory.

COLLABORATIONS

Child Well-Being Working Group

Comprised of representatives from the 39 member First Nations of the Anishinabek Nation, and six affiliated Indigenous child well-being agencies; the Working Group continued to hold meetings to discuss child well-being initiatives over the past year.

Topics discussed over the 2024-25 year included:

- the Final Agreement on the Long-Term Reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program;
- the Anishinabek Nation's Family Well-Being Program;
- Jordan's Principle;
- the Anishinabek Child, Youth, and Family Well-Being Action Plan;
- negotiations in the area of child, youth, and family well-being;

- repatriation;
- the Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Working Group's terms of reference;
- the *Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law*;
- the Anishinabek Nation Circle Process; and
- case management.

"Systemic social inequality has been pervasive in our communities generation after generation. The challenge going forward is in how we bridge those gaps. [We have to] build systems that integrate. We [must] elevate our children." -Chippewas of the Thames Chief Miskokomon

Office of the Children's Commissioner

Appointed in 2019, Duke Peltier has continued in his role as the Abinoojiinyan Onjii E-bimiikang (Children's Commissioner), providing high-level oversight over the implementation, compliance and enforcement of the *Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law* and the Anishinabek Nation Children and Youth Bill of Rights.

Over the past year, the Office of the Children's Commissioner has continued helping citizens, families and communities with advocacy and support. Accomplished through the promotion and protection of the rights of all Anishinabek children and youth, with a focus on Anishinabek children and youth facing difficulties and/or challenges.

In 2024-25, the Office received:

- 10 inquiries;
- provided support to four inquiries;
- referred two inquiries to other internal services; and
- referred four inquiries to external services.

The Children's Commissioner also participated in several engagements, including:

- meeting with Dr. Robert Urquhart, PhD, Head of Knowledge, Outcomes and Research at Barnardos Australia -awarded a Winston Churchill Fellowship to explore best practices in supporting children's healing journeys from the impacts of family violence;
- Koganaawsawin's Provincial First Nation Representative Conference;
- Anishinabek Nation Fall Assembly;
- meeting with Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services regarding Jordan's Principle;
- attending quarterly Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Working Group Meetings; and
- Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Assembly.

"Our communities require a holistic approach, ensuring that our children receive the teachings and support they need from an early age to navigate the challenges of life," shared Children's Commissioner Duke Peltier. "Our preventative systems must be culturally relevant to our communities, respecting our jurisdiction and authorities. This will underscore the external systems that we have always upheld our own laws when it comes to keeping our families together."

National Indigenous Strategy

First Nations across Canada joined Koganaawsawin for a National Indigenous Strategy: Bringing Our Children Home. The two-day in-person event took place in July of 2024.

The Strategy was attended by lawyers, negotiators, leadership, and child well-being technicians from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.

Throughout the two-day event, attendees discussed their child well-being work, various paths to jurisdiction, child well-being law development, approaches to fiscal negotiations, strategy for programs and services, and an overall approach to child well-being development.

Anishinabek Nation Circle Process

As a culturally-based, voluntary, child-centered, confidential circle, the Circle Process provides Anishinabek First Nation families with the support needed to create a plan that addresses child and youth well-being issues. It can be accessed at any step of the care process, utilizes the *Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law*, and supports Anishinabek Families that are involved or at-risk of becoming involved in child protection matters. In 2024-25, the Program began accepting requests for circles in the Lake Huron, and Northern Superior Regions.

In the past year, our Circle Process Navigators also participated in training and mentorship with the Family Group Conferencing (FGC) and Indigenous Alternative Dispute (IADR) through the Family Group Conferencing Ontario Provincial Resource Program. As approved members of the Family Group Conferencing Provincial Roster, they are trained to conduct circles virtually and in-person.

Family Well-Being Program

The Family Well-Being (FWB) Program continues to provide culturally grounded, community-led, and prevention-focused services for children, youth, and families across the 39 member Anishinabek First Nations. The Program operates under the Social Development Department. Providing coordination and support, the FWB Team work collaboratively with Koganaawsawin, Anishinabek First Nations, and internal departments – remaining committed to supporting community FWB workers.

Throughout 2024-25, the FWB Team focused on strengthening internal systems, building relationships, and improving access to support by:

- maintaining and updating a centralized contact list for FWB programs across all 39 member Nations;
- assisting communities in updating overdue reporting and releasing funding for prior fiscal years;
- coordinating with finance teams to ensure timely review and processing of reports and funding allocations; and
- supporting the delivery of services through responsive communications and regular community outreach.

The Program has supported member Nations in developing and sustaining their own community-based FWB Program through:

- community visits to offer reporting and program support;

- hiring and onboarding support, including provision of job descriptions, workplans, and guidance for recruitment and program development; and
- training delivery, offering in-person and virtual sessions on report writing and program planning for FWB workers and First Nation finance staff.

The FWB Team continues to collaborate with the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) through quarterly co-development meetings under the Strengthening Our Families Circle. This collaboration ensures ongoing input into the development and evolution of prevention-based programming that reflects the needs of Anishinabek communities.

The FWB Advisory Group, comprised of 10 members representing all four regions of the Anishinabek Nation, continues to meet quarterly. The Group plays a vital role in shaping program priorities and sharing regional insights. Leadership and coordination of the Group is provided by the FWB Team.

Over the past year, the FWB Team also supported, delivered to attended several events and training opportunities, including:

- support and participation in the Anishinabek Nation Family Violence Prevention Conference (April 2024);
- participation in the North Bay's FASD Awareness Walk (September 2024);
- hosting a holiday door decorating contest for FWB workers (December 2024);
- attending the Association of Native Child and Family Services Agencies of Ontario (ANCFSAO) Indigenous Child & Family Well-Being Conference (Toronto);
- hosting Diversity and Inclusivity Training (March 2025);
- hosting Trauma-Informed Care Training (March 2024); and
- participating in departmental and external events: National Indigenous Strategy Conference, Chiefs of Ontario Safety Forum, Indigenous Women's Advisory Council, meeting with Treaty 8, and the Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Working Group.

In addition to the day-to-day operations, the FWB Team also contributed to efforts within Koganaawsawin through:

- participation in the Community Standards Committee, to support the revision of a community standards tool; and
- supporting planning of the Provincial Child Well-Being Conference – Raising Our Children, Our Way – scheduled for October 2025.

Supporting First Nations to lead and deliver culturally safe, prevention-based services that nurture wellness and healing; the FWB Team remains committed to building capacity and strengthening relationships within the Anishinabek Nation.

Weshkiniijig

Weshkiniijig

Over the past year, Weshkiniijig delivered virtual events to support and engage Anishinabek youth, including:

- a Healing through Painting Workshop; and
- a Bracelet Making Workshop to unlock emotional well-being for Anishinabek youth.

In July 2024, Weshkiniijig also hosted a Youth Culture Camp at the Ecology Retreat Centre in Mono, Ontario. Indigenous youth aged 15-29 left the Camp carrying with them new knowledge, skills, and connection – an empowering, enriching and exciting camp experience that will continue to resonate with all of the participants who came together at the retreat, sharing their common desire to connect with other Indigenous youth and the Anishinaabe culture.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG2S+)

In April of 2024, the Anishinabek Nation Social Development Department organized and hosted its first Family Violence Prevention Conference.

Over the course of the two-day Conference, participants identified priorities for family violence prevention, were introduced to star teachings – constellations and clans-bagone-giizhig (the hole in the sky), and held in-depth discussions during a comprehensive exercise to answer key questions.

“[We gathered] in a good way to realize the importance of [Family Violence Prevention], to see the strength, beauty, and kindness we have as Anishinaabe people, [and] to replace violence with kindness. So that families [frontline workers] work with can stand up and take care of themselves and their families.” -Elder Mike Couchie

Over the past year, work also continued on:

- development of a strategic action plan, supporting full implementation of *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry Into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*, including the 231 Calls to Justice; and
- the Anishinabek Nation’s Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, Girls, Trans and Two-Spirited Five-Year Action Plan.

During Fall Assembly, the Chiefs-in-Assembly also passed resolution to advocate for the establishment of a national and/or provincial data bank for Missing and Murdered First Nations Women, Girls, Men and Boys, and full funding for this initiative.

Kinoomaadziwin Education Body (KEB)

Over the past year, Koganaawsawin and the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body (KEB) continued to honour their commitment to work together.

In addition to meeting quarterly to discuss collaboration opportunities, share information, and support each other’s work and initiatives, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was drafted for approval by participating Anishinabek First Nations.

Treaty 8

In June 2024, Koganaawsawin participated in a Friendship Ceremony with Treaty 8 – celebrating a shared commitment to child well-being, and dedication to maintaining traditional practices. The Ceremony also symbolized their strong relationship, reinforcing mutual respect and cooperation.

Koganaawsawin's work with Treaty 8 paves the way for other First Nations to reclaim their traditions and sovereignty in child welfare matters. Through sharing experiences and successes, Koganaawsawin aims to inspire and support other communities in developing their own culturally appropriate child well-being frameworks.

UPCOMING

Main Table Negotiations

Finalize Tripartite Self-government Agreement package, which will include:

- Main Agreement.
 - Fiscal Agreement with Canada.
 - Fiscal Agreement with Ontario.
 - Implementation Plan with Canada.
 - Operations Agreement with Ontario.
 - Action Plan for the Operations Agreement with Ontario.
-
- Seek authority from the Anishinabek First Nations to initial the tripartite self-government agreement; and
 - confirm community approval processes with the Anishinabek First Nations.

Fiscal Negotiations

After the tabling of the fiscal request with Canada and Ontario, their respective negotiation teams have sought details concerning current funding levels. As a result, the Anishinabek Nation's negotiations team will commence a second round of consultations.

The objective will be to secure as accurate a set of figures as possible for child well-being funding received by participating First Nations directly and indirectly from Canada and Ontario, as set out in, or broken down beyond the level set out in the most recent audited financial statements.



Scan this QR code to book a 1hr 30min meeting with the Child, Youth, and Family Well-Being Fiscal Negotiations Team. Once you select a date and time that works for your team via Calendly, you will receive a calendar invitation. Please ensure that leadership and all technical staff in Child, Youth, and Family Well-Being attend the virtual meeting.

- Confirm funding from Canada to support community approval processes and
- initiate community approval process.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This **Memorandum of Understanding** is made effective and entered into as of [date].

BETWEEN

KINOOMAADZIWIN EDUCATION BODY

Suite 100 – 132 Osprey Miikan
North Bay, Ontario P1B 8G5
(the “KEB”)

and

KOGANAAWSAWIN

1 Migizii Miikan
North Bay, Ontario
P1B 8J8
 (“Koganaawsawin”)

(Collectively, “the Parties”)

WHEREAS the Parties participated in a relationship ceremony, based on the direction of their member First Nations, committing the organizations to collaborate, where appropriate, in supporting Anishinabek children and youth; and

WHEREAS the Parties wish to maintain an ongoing working relationship to provide support, expertise, guidance, and assistance, where appropriate, to fulfill the common objectives of First Nations to support the success and well-being of the Anishinabek children and youth both on and off-reserve; and

WHEREAS the Parties are autonomous and may enter into arrangements considered to be in their best interest(s) and to advance their ability to achieve the requirements of their respective vision and mission statements to support the Anishinabek First Nations; and

WHEREAS the Parties have agreed to enter into this non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (the “MOU”) that enables them to work together in the pursuit of the objectives set out in this MOU;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:

ROLES OF THE Parties

1. The KEB is the central coordinating body that supports the Participating First Nations of the Anishinabek Education System (AES), in exercising their jurisdiction

- over education on-reserve and the delivery of education programs and services both on and off-reserve through the implementation of the Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement. The KEB coordinates education matters related to the implementation of the Anishinabek Education System.
2. Koganaawsawin is the central coordinating body that supports Anishinabek First Nations in advancing child, youth, and family well-being initiatives and in exercising their inherent jurisdiction over child, youth, and family well-being both on and off-reserve.

NATURE OF THIS MOU

3. This MOU establishes the framework by which the Parties will work together in an effort to provide support, expertise, guidance, and assistance, where appropriate, to fulfill the objectives of the Anishinabek First Nations to support Anishinabek children, youth, and families, in a manner that is consistent with the mandates, policies, priorities, and resources of each Party and which is in accordance with the respective vision and mission statements, and strategic plans of the Parties.
4. The Parties acknowledge that the respective responsibilities of their organizations take priority over collaborations with one another, yet they agree to devote the time and attention necessary to support and implement the activities set out in this MOU;

ACTIVITIES

5. This MOU confirms the Parties commitment to meet as necessary to discuss and collaborate on the common issues related to their respective work to support Anishinabek children, youth and families.
6. Joint activities between the Parties may include:
 - a. youth councils, camps, conferences, gatherings, and other events;
 - b. activities supporting engagement in relation to language and culture;
 - c. Anishinaabe Giizhigad events;
 - d. data and information sharing, as required, and as authorized by the Anishinabek First Nations, to support the implementation of this MOU;
 - e. promotion of each other's events and activities;
 - f. [add in other activities]; and
 - g. other activities agreed to by the Parties.

7. KEB and Koganaawsawin may decide to enter into specific agreements or other arrangements to effect a joint decision of the Parties. These specific agreements or other arrangements will clearly identify the collaborative initiative to be undertaken by the Parties and the arrangements for completing the collaborative initiative, including the commitment of human resources and funding resources by the respective Parties.

CONFIDENTIALITY

8. The Parties acknowledge that in implementing this MOU, each Party may come into possession of confidential information of the other Party. Accordingly, each Party agrees that it will only use such confidential information for the purposes of furthering the implementation of this MOU and that it will not, without the prior written consent of the other Party, copy or disclose to any third party such confidential information. The receiving Party will return the confidential information of the other Party within five to ten (5-10) days of the termination of this MOU or within five to ten (5-10) days of receipt of a written request from the other Party.
9. For the purposes of this MOU, confidential information shall not include information that was already in the public domain or information that comes into the public domain through no act of the receiving party.

TERM

10. This MOU is effective on the date set out above and will continue in effect until terminated by mutual agreement in writing or by either Party providing thirty (30) days' written notice of termination to the other Party.

KEB DELEGATE

11. The KEB delegate for the implementation of this MOU is the Education Programs and Services Manager.

KOGANAAWSAWIN DELEGATE

12. Koganaawsawin delegate for the implementation of this MOU is the Social Services Manager.

AMENDMENTS

13. This agreement may only be amended in writing by the Parties.

14. Any amendment to this Agreement will take effect on a date agreed to in writing by the Parties.

COUNTERPARTS

15. This MOU may be executed in counterparts each of which when executed shall be deemed to be an original and such counterparts shall together constitute one and the same instrument.

KINOOMAADZIWIN EDUCATION BODY

KOGANAAWSAWIN

DRAFT

**Koganaawsawin Annual General Meeting
Hybrid Meeting – Killarney Mountain Lodge, Killarney ON
Waababagaa Giizis 11, 2025**

Gaa-wenaabdamaang (Resolution)– #2025-03

Debaachigaadeg	Subject:	Approval of MOU between Koganaawsawin and KEB
E-gaandingang	Mover:	
E-ko-niizhing e-gaadinang	Seconders:	
Be-minideg	Status:	
Nendowendizig	Opposed:	
Gegoo e-kidsig	Abstentions:	

ZHIBIIGAADEG – LET IT BE SAID:

1. Koganaawsawin serves as the central liaison and coordinating body for the Anishinabek First Nations regarding child, youth, and family well-being matters, and is committed to supporting the collective vision of its member First Nations in exercising jurisdiction over child, youth, and family services;
2. The Kinoomaadziwin Education Body (KEB) serves as the central coordinating body that supports the Participating First Nations of the Anishinabek Education System, in exercising their jurisdiction over education on-reserve and the delivery of education programs and services both on- and off-reserve through the implementation of the *Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement*. The KEB coordinates education matters related to the implementation of the Anishinabek Education System;
3. Both Koganaawsawin and the KEB recognize the importance of working together in an effort to provide support, expertise, guidance, and assistance, where appropriate, to fulfill the objectives of the Anishinabek First Nations to support Anishinabek children, youth, and families, in a manner that is consistent with the mandates, policies, priorities, and resources of each party and which is in accordance with the respective vision and mission statements and strategic plans of the parties; and
4. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been co-developed to guide the collaborative relationship between Koganaawsawin and the KEB in the pursuit of the shared objectives set out in the MOU, including knowledge sharing, coordinated efforts, and joint initiatives that benefit Anishinabek children, youth, and families.

Zhibiigaadeg (Let it be said):

1. The Koganaawsawin member First Nations hereby approve the MOU between Koganaawsawin and the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body;
2. Koganaawsawin is authorized to execute the MOU on behalf of the Koganaawsawin member First Nations;
3. Koganaawsawin shall ensure that the implementation of this MOU is consistent with the mandate and priorities of the Koganaawsawin member First Nations and shall report back on progress, outcomes, and opportunities arising from this collaboration; and
4. This resolution confirms the commitment of the Koganaawsawin participating First Nations to work in a spirit of unity and mutual support with the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body, honouring Anishinabek language, culture and tradition, for the benefit of Anishinabek children, families, and communities.

Certified by:

Secretary of the Board of Directors

Date

Relationship Protocol and Memorandum of Understanding Between B'Maakonigan and Koganaawsawin

Part I: Relationship Protocol (Sacred Foundation)

B'Maakonigan and Koganaawsawin affirm that both organizations grew from the Restoration of Jurisdiction process mandated by the Chiefs-in-Assembly in 1995. This process was established to negotiate with Canada and Ontario for the return of Anishinabek jurisdiction in areas such as governance, education, social services, economic development, and health, with an initial focus on governance and education. Our Protocol carries forward this mandate by strengthening governance under the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement (ANGA) and by advancing inherent jurisdiction over child, youth, and family well-being.

We root this Protocol in the Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe (One Anishinaabe Family) and the Eight Teachings of the Anishinaabeg:

- Anishinaabemowin (Language)
- Inendamowin (Thinking)
- Gikendaasowin (Knowing)
- Inaadiziwin (Being)
- Izhichigewin (Doing)
- Enawendiwin (Relating)
- Gidakiiminaan (Connecting to the Land)
- Mino Bimaadiziwin (Good Life)

Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe is the Guiding Principles of the Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin (Constitution), 2011.

Debenjiged gii'saan Anishinaaben akiing giibi dgwon gaadeni mnidoo waadiziwin. - Creator placed the Anishinabe on the earth along with the gift of spirituality.

Shkode, nibi, aki, noodin, giibi dgosdoonan wii naagdowendmang maanpii shkagmigaang. - Here on Mother Earth, there were gifts given to the Anishinabe to look after, fire, water, earth and wind.

Debenjiged gii miinaan gechtwaa wendaagog Anishinaaben waa naagdoonjin ninda niizhwaaswi kino maadwinan. - The Creator also gave the Anishinabe seven sacred gifts to guide them. They are:

Zaagidwin, Debwewin, Mnaadendmowin, Nbwaakaawin, Dbaadendiziwin, Gwekwaadziwin miinwa Aakedhewin - Love, Truth, Respect, Wisdom, Humility, Honesty and Bravery

Debenjiged kiimiingona dedbinwe wi naagdowendiwin - Creator gave us sovereignty to govern ourselves

Ka mnaadendanaa gaabi zhiwebag miinwaa nango megwaa ezhwebag, miinwa geyaabi waa ni zhiwebag. - We respect and honour the past, present and future.

This Protocol is not a legal agreement. It is a living document and commitment that affirms our responsibilities to past, present, and future generations, and our shared journey toward restoring Nationhood and living Mino Bimaadiziwin.

Shared Commitments

- Speak and act in ways that reflect Anishinaabe worldview with an emphasis on Anishinaabe aadziwin and Anishinaabemowin.
- Share knowledge, tools, and teachings that strengthen governance and well-being.
- Foster trust, accountability, and cultural integrity in our organizations.
- Nurture respectful relationships between our entities, communities, and all E'Dbendaagzijig.
- Ground our work in relationship with the land.
- Strive for balance and harmony in our collaboration.

Ceremonial Acknowledgement

The Protocol may be affirmed through ceremony (e.g., pipe ceremony, sweetgrass braiding, feast) as a way of honouring the spiritual dimension of this relationship.

Part II: Memorandum of Understanding (Operational Framework)

Preamble

WHEREAS the Restoration of Jurisdiction Department was established by the Anishinabek Nation Chiefs-in-Assembly in 1995 to negotiate the recognition of inherent jurisdiction in areas including governance, education, social services, economic development, and health, with an initial focus on governance and education; and

WHEREAS B'Maakonigan and Koganaawsawin represent parallel expressions of this Restoration of Jurisdiction process: B'Maakonigan advancing core governance through the ANGA, and Koganaawsawin advancing inherent jurisdiction over child, youth, and family well-being; and

WHEREAS the Parties participated in a relationship ceremony committing the organizations to collaborate, where appropriate, in supporting Anishinabek children, youth, and families; and

WHEREAS the Parties wish to maintain an ongoing working relationship to provide support, expertise, guidance, and assistance, where appropriate, to fulfill the common objectives of First Nations to support the success and well-being of the Anishinabek children, youth, and families both on and off-reserve; and

WHEREAS the Parties are autonomous and may enter into arrangements considered to be in their best interest(s) and to advance their ability to achieve the requirements of their respective vision and mission statements to support the Anishinabek First Nations; and

WHEREAS the Parties have agreed to enter into this non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (the "MOU") that enables them to work together in the pursuit of the objectives set out in this MOU;

Roles of the Parties

B'Maakonigan is the administrative body responsible for overseeing the implementation of the ANGA and the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement Act, guiding, supporting, and engaging the signatory First Nations as they transition from Indian Act governance to First Nation Governance.

Koganaawsawin is the central coordinating body that supports Anishinabek First Nations in advancing child, youth, and family well-being initiatives and in exercising their inherent jurisdiction over child, youth, and family well-being both on and off-reserve.

Nature of this MOU

This MOU establishes the framework by which the Parties will work together in an effort to provide support, expertise, guidance, and assistance, where appropriate, to fulfill the objectives of the Anishinabek First Nations to support Anishinabek children, youth, and families, in a manner that is consistent with the mandates, policies, priorities, and resources of each Party and which is in accordance with the respective vision and mission statements, and strategic plans of the Parties.

The Parties acknowledge that the respective responsibilities of their organizations take priority over collaborations with one another, yet they agree to devote the time and attention necessary to support and implement the activities set out in this MOU.

Activities

Joint activities between the Parties may include:

- Supporting youth leadership development through councils, camps, conferences, and governance-focused gatherings.
- Collaborating on engagement sessions and communications strategies to support First Nations implementing their Child Well-Being Laws and broader self-government initiatives.
- Developing and sharing tools, templates, or best practices that support Anishinabek Nation laws, including child well-being and self-government frameworks.
- Sharing data and research to support the development of governance models that reflect Anishinaabe values, laws, and traditions, as authorized by the First Nations.
- Supporting Anishinaabe Giizhigad events and other cultural activities that affirm Nationhood and the centrality of children, youth, and families in governance.
- Promoting each other's activities, engagements, and initiatives to ensure alignment and awareness.
- Other collaborative efforts agreed to by the Parties that support the vision of restoring jurisdiction and Nation-based governance.
- Other collaborative activities agreed to by the Parties.

The Parties may decide to enter into specific agreements or other arrangements to effect a joint decision of the Parties. These specific agreements or other arrangements will clearly identify the

collaborative initiative to be undertaken by the Parties and the arrangements for completing the collaborative initiative, including the commitment of human resources and funding resources by the respective Parties.

Confidentiality

The Parties acknowledge that in implementing this MOU, each Party may come into possession of confidential information of the other Party. Accordingly, each Party agrees that it will only use such confidential information for the purpose of furthering the implementation of this MOU and that it will not, without the prior written consent of the other Party, copy or disclose to any third party such confidential information. The receiving Party will return the confidential information of the other Party within five to ten (5-10) days of the termination of this MOU or within five to ten (5-10) days of receipt of a written request from the other Party.

For the purposes of this MOU, confidential information shall not include information that was already in the public domain or information that comes into the public domain through no act of the receiving Party.

Term & Termination

This MOU is effective on the date set out above and will continue in effect until terminated by mutual agreement in writing or by either Party providing thirty (30) days' written notice of termination to the other Party.

Delegates

- B'Maakonigan Delegate: [insert title/name]
- Koganaawsawin Delegate: [insert title/name]

Dispute Resolution

Any disputes will first be addressed through dialogue and relationship-based processes, guided by the values of the Relationship Protocol. If unresolved, the matter will be referred to designated leadership of both organizations for resolution.

Amendments

This agreement may only be amended in writing by the Parties. Any amendment to this Agreement will take effect on a date agreed to in writing by the Parties.

Counterparts

This MOU may be executed in counterparts each of which when executed shall be deemed to be an original and such counterparts shall together constitute one and the same instrument.

B'MAAKONIGAN SIGNATURE: _____

Leslie McGregor, Chief Executive Officer

KOGANAAWSAWIN SIGNATURE: _____

Stan Cloud, Director of Social Development and Koganaawsawin

**Koganaawsawin Annual General Meeting
Hybrid Meeting – Killarney Mountain Lodge, Killarney ON
Waababagaa Giizis 11, 2025**

Gaa-wenaabdamaang (Resolution)– #2025-04

Debaachigaadeg	Subject:	Approval of MOU between Koganaawsawin and B'Maakonigan
E-gaandingang	Mover:	
E-ko-niizhing e-gaadinang	Seconders:	
Be-minideg	Status:	
Nendowendizig	Opposed:	
Gegoo e-kidsig	Abstentions:	

ZHIBIIGAADEG – LET IT BE SAID:

1. Koganaawsawin serves as the central liaison and coordinating body for the Anishinabek First Nations regarding child, youth, and family well-being matters, and is committed to supporting the collective vision of its member First Nations in exercising jurisdiction over child, youth, and family services;
2. B'Maakonigan is the administrative body responsible for overseeing the implementation of the *Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement Act*, guiding, supporting, and engaging the signatory First Nations as they transition from Indian Act governance to First Nation Governance under the *Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement Act*;
3. Both Koganaawsawin and B'Maakonigan recognize the importance of working together in an effort to provide support, expertise, guidance, and assistance, where appropriate, to fulfill the objectives of the Anishinabek First Nations to support Anishinabek children, youth, and families, in a manner that is consistent with the mandates, policies, priorities, and resources of each party and which is in accordance with the respective vision and mission statements and strategic plans of the parties; and
4. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been co-developed to guide the collaborative relationship between Koganaawsawin and B'Maakonigan in the pursuit of the shared objectives set out in the MOU, including knowledge sharing, coordinated efforts, and joint initiatives that benefit Anishinabek children, youth, and families.

Zhibiigaadeg (Let it be said):

1. The Koganaawsawin member First Nations hereby approve the MOU between Koganaawsawin and the B'Maakonigan;
2. Koganaawsawin is authorized to execute the MOU on behalf of the Koganaawsawin member First Nations;
3. Koganaawsawin shall ensure that the implementation of this MOU is consistent with the mandate and priorities of the Koganaawsawin member First Nations and shall report back on progress, outcomes, and opportunities arising from this collaboration; and
4. This resolution confirms the commitment of the Koganaawsawin member First Nations to work in a spirit of unity and mutual support with B'Maakonigan for the benefit of Anishinabek children, families, and communities.

Certified by:

Secretary of the Board of Directors

Date

MEMORANDUM

TO: Koganaawsawin Member First Nations

FROM: Stan Cloud, Director of Koganaawsawin

DATE: September 11, 2025

RE: Evolution of Koganaawsawin

BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

In July of 2022, Koganaawsawin received direction from participating Anishinabek First Nations to move forward with the Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Working Group's recommendation to incorporate as a not-for-profit corporation.

Upon receiving a Certificate of Incorporation; Koganaawsawin officially became a not-for-profit corporation on November 29, 2022.

Currently, Koganaawsawin is amalgamated with the Anishinabek Nation's Social Development Department. As the central coordinating body of the Anishinabek Child, Youth, and Family Well-Being System, Koganaawsawin is responsible for the child, youth, and family services jurisdiction with the capacity to deliver services to all 39 member Nations of the Anishinabek Nation.

Following the successful completion of current negotiations in the area of child, youth, and family well-being with the governments of Canada and Ontario, a self-government agreement - the Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Agreement (CWBA) - will affirm and financially support the law-making and program implementation of participating Anishinabek First Nations.

Once the CWBA is in place, Koganaawsawin's role may include both:

- acting as the central coordinating body, providing support to signatory First Nations in the context of a self-government agreement; and
- as a central coordinating body managing federal and provincial programs for First Nations within the broad *Indian Act* framework.

PRECEDENTS

Kinoomaadziwin Education Body (KEB)

The role of Koganaawsawin is similar to that of the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body (KEB), the central entity regarding the *Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement* (ANEA). However, the KEB is solely a self-

government entity. KEB does not provide services within the *Indian Act* framework. As a result, non-self-government education service delivery remains within the Anishinabek Nation.

In regard to the KEB, the decision taken was to spin-off the organization as a separate, provincially incorporated entity.

B'Maakonigan

The role of Koganaawsawin is also similar to that of B'Maakonigan, the central entity regarding the *Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement* (ANGA). B'Maakonigan is also solely a self-government entity. It does not provide services within the *Indian Act* framework. As a result, non-self-government governance service delivery remains within the Anishinabek Nation.

The decision taken with regard to B'Maakonigan was to establish it as separate from the Anishinabek Nation, but without federal or provincial incorporation. Instead, B'Maakonigan was established based on the self-government assertion of its signatory First Nations, as recognized in federal legislation.

FUNDING THE ANISHINABEK NATION

The Anishinabek Nation's role includes governance, advocacy, the maintenance of an aggregated profile, as well as an enhanced capacity for intergovernmental affairs. The Anishinabek Nation is also involved in direct program delivery in multiple jurisdictional areas within the *Indian Act* framework.

Rather than a dedicated source of federal and provincial funding as secured for the operations of the KEB and B'Maakonigan in the self-government context, the funding model for the Anishinabek Nation is premised on various "consultation charges" billed against financial inflows.

This funding model is particularly susceptible to self-government spin-offs or carve-outs. The more First Nations exercise self-government pursuant to self-government agreements with Canada and Ontario, and then commence receiving centralized services from a separate entity dedicatedly solely to self-governing First Nations in a single jurisdiction, the less funding will be available for the work of the Anishinabek Nation.

KOGANAAWSAWIN – OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

While some steps have been taken with a view to the spin-off or carve-out of Koganaawsawin, such that it would become a separate, provincially incorporated entity, a formal decision is yet to be taken by the Grand Council of the Anishinabek Nation. As a result, the time is opportune for a comprehensive assessment of the future structure, place, and role of Koganaawsawin.

The options available regarding Koganaawsawin are:

- a) a spin-off or carve-out pursuant to which only self-governing First Nations are served, with funding within the *Indian Act* framework remaining within the Anishinabek Nation;
- b) a spin-off or carve-out pursuant to which all Anishinabek First Nations are served, further to both a self-government agreement and the *Indian Act* framework; or
- c) retention as a department or as a subsidiary corporation within the Anishinabek Nation, with self-governing First Nations and *Indian Act* framework First Nations receiving services from separate “secretariats” within the department or subsidiary corporation.

The pros and cons of each of the above three options are as follows:

(a) spin-off or carve-out to only serve self-governing First Nations

Pros

- This approach would be similar to that implemented regarding both the KEB and B'Maakonigan.
- This is an approach, although not the only approach, that would satisfy Ontario's specific interest in premising the flow of funds on the existence of a distinct corporate structure.

Cons

- This approach would continue the negative impact on the finances of the Anishinabek Nation occasioned by self-government spin-offs or carve-outs.
- This approach would further entrench a precedent that may be difficult to manage at scale. Once more agreements are completed, the separate self-government entities of the Anishinabek Nation, operating outside unified governance and strategic direction, could number six or more.

(b) spin-off or carve-out to serve all Anishinabek First Nations

Pros

- This would be a slight deviation from the approach taken by both the KEB and B'Maakonigan in that this version of Koganaawsawin would exist separately but serve both self-government and *Indian Act* First Nations.
- This approach would also satisfy Ontario's specific interest in premising the flow of

Cons

- Due to the exit of all funds managed by Koganaawsawin, this approach would quicken or make worse the negative impact on the finances of the Anishinabek Nation occasioned by self-government spin-offs or carve-outs.
- This approach would also entrench a precedent that may be difficult to manage

funds on the existence of a distinct corporate structure.

in a future reality of multiple sectoral self-government agreements.

(c) retention as a department or subsidiary corporation with distinct secretariats

Pros

- This approach would not contribute to the negative impact on the finances of the Anishinabek Nation occasioned by self-government spin-offs or carve-outs.
- In addition, this approach would establish a new framework for central entities managing Anishinabek jurisdictional self-government agreements — one that can be managed at scale since it builds on the existing and proven structures of the Anishinabek Nation, and one that provides for the continuation of unified governance and strategic direction.
- If the option is for a subsidiary corporation with distinct self-government and *Indian Act* “secretariats”, this approach would satisfy Ontario’s specific interest in premising the flow of funds on the existence of a distinct corporate structure.

Cons

- This approach would deviate from what has been implemented regarding both the KEB and B’Maakonigan.
- If the option is for a subsidiary corporation with distinct self-government and *Indian Act* “secretariats”, this approach would require legal work pertaining to the designing of a new, subsidiary governance structure that correctly balances the interests of (a) self-governing First Nation signatories to the CWBA, (b) First Nations under the *Indian Act* framework, and (c) the existing structures of the Anishinabek Nation.

FUNDING

While the fiscal implications of these three options have been briefly outlined in the pros and cons, those pertaining to the third option would benefit from detailed projections.

At this point in time, the figure proposed by the Anishinabek Nation’s negotiators for the operations of Koganaawsawin after the ratification of the CWBA is approximately \$25.5 million. Similarly, the aggregate figure proposed for the current set of 22 signatory First Nations is approximately \$164.8 million.

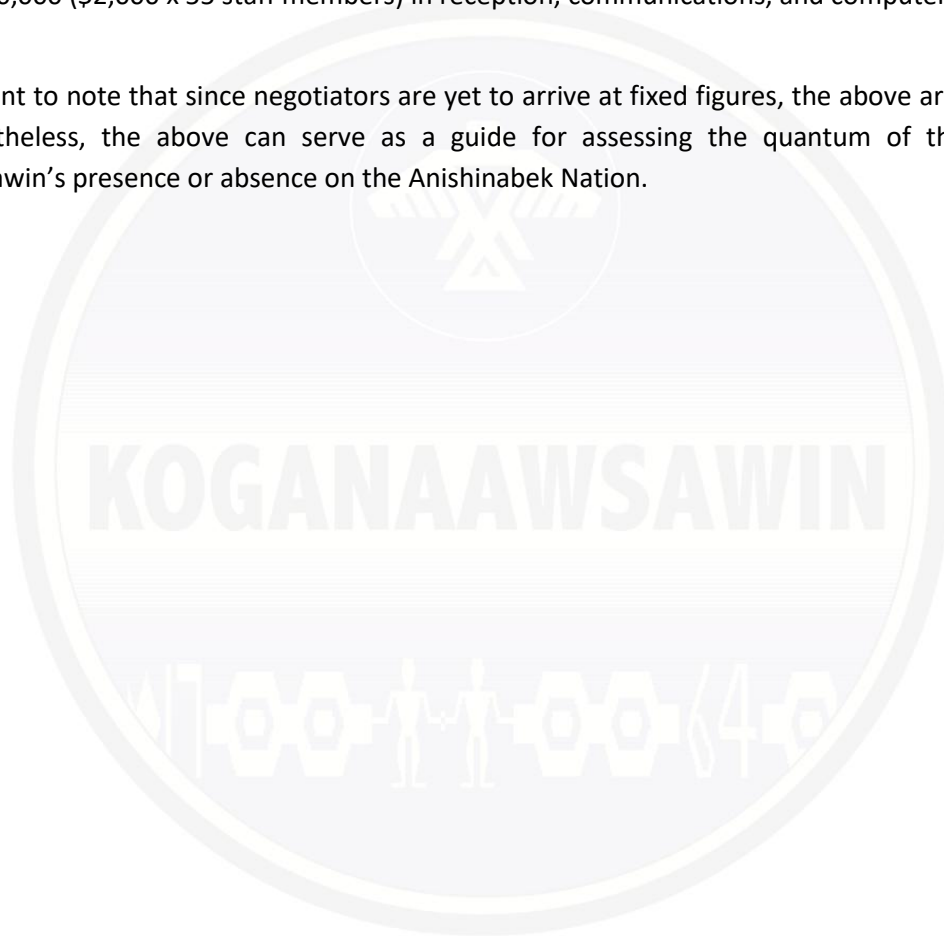
The ultimate figure will be negotiated, and it is certain that both Canada and Ontario will seek to complete the negotiations with a reduced figure. Thus, assuming a 25% reduction, \$19.1 million for Koganaawsawin

and \$123.6 million for the signatory First Nations would be good working figures for the purposes of this Decision Note.

In the context of Koganaawsawin as a department or subsidiary corporation of the Anishinabek Nation, an agreed approach could be that the Anishinabek Nation collect **roughly \$6.08 million**, as follows:

- 4% or \$4.94 million (in lieu of 10% or \$12.36 million) from First Nation transfers;
- 4% or \$764,000 (in lieu of 10% or \$1.91 million) from Koganaawsawin transfers;
- \$275,000 (\$5,000 x 55 staff members) in rental fees; and
- \$110,000 (\$2,000 x 55 staff members) in reception, communications, and computer services.

It is important to note that since negotiators are yet to arrive at fixed figures, the above are **projections only**. Nonetheless, the above can serve as a guide for assessing the quantum of the impact of Koganaawsawin's presence or absence on the Anishinabek Nation.



**Koganaawsawin Annual General Meeting
Hybrid Meeting – Killarney Mountain Lodge, Killarney ON
Waababagaa Giizis 11, 2025**

Gaa-wenaabdamaang (Resolution)– #2025-05

Debaachigaadeg	Subject:	Approval of a structural approach for Koganaawsawin
E-gaandingang	Mover:	
E-ko-niizhing e-gaadinang	Seconders:	
Be-minideg	Status:	
Nendowendizig	Opposed:	
Gegoo e-kidsig	Abstentions:	

ZHIBIIGAADEG – LET IT BE SAID:

1. On May 31, 2022, Koganaawsawin met with the leadership of 21 First Nations who had chosen to enact the *Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law* within their community. The leadership passed a resolution to incorporate Koganaawsawin as a not-for-profit corporation;
2. On November 29, 2022, Koganaawsawin received its Certificate of Incorporation and became officially incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation;
3. Koganaawsawin has operated under the administrative structure of the Union of Ontario Indians/Anishinabek Nation during its development phase;
4. Koganaawsawin is currently involved in negotiations with the Governments of Canada and Ontario, pursuant to which a self-government agreement, the Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Agreement (“CWBA”), will affirm and financially support the law-making and program implementation of signatory First Nations.
5. Once the CWBA is in place, Koganaawsawin may play a dual role:
 - a. acting as the central coordinating body, providing support to signatory First Nations in the context of a self-government agreement; and
 - b. as a central coordinating body managing federal and provincial programs for First Nations within the broad *Indian Act* framework.
6. There is now a need for negotiators to know the future structure of Koganaawsawin. A memo has been prepared that sets out three possible options for the future structure of Koganaawsawin.

The memo takes into consideration precedents and funding implications for the Anishinabek Nation.

Zhibiigaadeg (Let it be said):

Option 1

1. The Koganaawsawin member First Nations hereby approve Koganaawsawin to be a spin-off or carve-out pursuant to which only self-governing First Nations are served, with funding within the *Indian Act* framework remaining within the Anishinabek Nation;
2. Koganaawsawin is approved to proceed with preparations for transition from the Anishinabek Nation, including but not limited to undertaking fiscal analysis, assessing, and securing independent office space, developing governance and administrative processes, and engaging with leadership, Elders, youth, and community members for input and guidance.

Option 2

1. The Koganaawsawin member First Nations hereby approve Koganaawsawin to be a spin-off or carve-out pursuant to which all Anishinabek First Nations are served, further to both a self-government agreement and the *Indian Act* framework; or
2. Koganaawsawin is approved to take the necessary steps to operationalize this transition, including developing governance and administrative structures, negotiating, and finalizing agreements with the Anishinabek Nation and funders, securing resources and infrastructure, and engaging with First Nations leadership and community members to ensure coordinated implementation.

Option 3

1. The Koganaawsawin member First Nations hereby approve Koganaawsawin to be retained as a department or as a subsidiary corporation within the Anishinabek Nation, with self-governing First Nations and *Indian Act* framework First Nations receiving services from separate “secretariats” within the department or subsidiary corporation.
2. Koganaawsawin is directed to bring forward a resolution to the Anishinabek Nation Chiefs-in-Assembly requesting that the Anishinabek Nation enter negotiations with Koganaawsawin to develop the necessary agreements, structures, and processes for this model, including the design of the secretariats, clarification of mandates and funding, and engagement with First Nations leadership and communities to ensure effective and distinct service delivery.

Certified by:

Secretary of the Board of Directors

Date

MEMORANDUM

TO: Koganaawsawin Member First Nations

FROM: Katrina Langevin, Lead Negotiator | Jide Afolabi, Fiscal Negotiator

DATE: September 11, 2025

RE: Self-Government Agreement Adhesion Date

INTRODUCTION

An adhesion date is the date by which a First Nation must decide to join (adhere to) a self-government agreement. It determines when a First Nation becomes a recognized signatory to an agreement and when responsibilities and authorities under an agreement take effect.

Signatory First Nations will immediately join the Tripartite Anishinabek Child, Youth, and Family Well-Being Self-Government Agreement (CWBA) upon ratification (community approval process). These First Nations will have earlier access to funding and jurisdiction over child, youth, and family well-being.

There will be First Nations who are not ready to join the agreement immediately. A decision must be made as to when those First Nations can join the CWBA. This item will need to be negotiated into the CWBA and the supporting bilateral fiscal agreements.

OPTIONS FOR ADHESION

Delayed Adhesion

Delayed adhesion means First Nations can join the CWBA, post-ratification, after a defined waiting period (e.g., 1–5 years).

There are several considerations regarding delayed adhesion:

- Provides early-adopter First Nations the time to build capacity, complete community engagement, design central and regional operations, and resolve local governance readiness.
 - Supports early implementation while preserving flexibility for later-adopters.
 - The built-in delay allows for the possibility that an aggregate of First Nations will join the agreement all at once, reducing the number of amendments to the Agreement.
-

- The *Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement* has an open-ended adherence approach, so many First Nations may be familiar with this approach.
- Risk: if the built-in delay is too long, the circumstances of partners (e.g., change of provincial/federal governments) may change and render later-adoption more challenging; further, the built-in delay may stretch negotiations and implementation resources.

Open-Ended Adhesion

Open-ended adhesion means post-ratification, First Nations that are later adopters can join the agreement at any point in the future.

- Allows flexibility for First Nations to join the CWBA as soon as they're ready to do so.
- Can assist in the early securing of a sense of momentum, or growth in the number of First Nations that have signed on.
- The *Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement* has an open-ended adherence approach, so many First Nations may be familiar with this approach.
- Risk: While the Agreement always remains "open" for adoption, the result is a high likelihood of numerous updates, engagements, and amendments, including as early as the first-year post-ratification.

Recommendation from the Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Working Group

This question was brought forward to the Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Working Group on August 28, 2025. A poll was used to gather information from the attendees, the results were as follows:

1. Should the Anishinabek Nation Tripartite Self-Government Agreement take a Delayed Adhesion approach or an Open-ended Adhesion Approach?

016

Delayed Adhesion



38 %

Open-ended Adhesion



63 %

**Koganaawsawin Annual General Meeting
Hybrid Meeting – Killarney Mountain Lodge, Killarney ON
Waababagaa Giizis 11, 2025**

Gaa-wenaabdamaang (Resolution)– #2025-06

Debaachigaadeg	Subject:	Self-Government Adhesion Date
E-gaandingang	Mover:	
E-ko-niizhing e-gaadinang	Seconder:	
Be-minideg	Status:	
Nendowendizig	Opposed:	
Gegoo e-kidsig	Abstentions:	

ZHIBIIGAADEG – LET IT BE SAID:

1. The Anishinabek Nation Negotiations Team is currently engaged in negotiations for a Self-Government Agreement on Child, Youth, and Family Well-Being, on behalf of a group of Anishinabek First Nations that have enacted the Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law.
2. Once finalized, this Self-Government Agreement will give the Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law the force and effect of federal law.
3. The matter of the adhesion process—which determines how and when additional First Nations may adopt and join the Agreement after ratification—has not yet been settled in negotiations.

Zhibiigaadeg (Let it be said):

Option 1: Delayed Adhesion Approach

1. The Koganaawsawin member First Nations support a delayed adhesion approach to the Child, Youth, and Family Well-Being Self-Government Agreement.
2. Under this approach, First Nations that did not participate in the initial ratification may join the Agreement after a waiting period of ____ years, following ratification.
3. The Anishinabek Nation Negotiations Team is authorized to present and advocate for this position at the negotiation table with the Governments of Canada and Ontario.

Option 2: Open-Ended Adhesion Approach

1. The Koganaawsawin member First Nations support an open-ended adhesion approach to the Child, Youth, and Family Well-Being Self-Government Agreement.

2. This approach permits First Nations that are not initial signatories to join the Agreement at any time in the future, following ratification.
3. The Anishinabek Nation Negotiations Team is authorized to present and advocate for this position at the negotiation table with the Governments of Canada and Ontario.

Certified by:

Secretary of the Board of Directors

Date

MEMORANDUM

TO: Koganaawsawin Member First Nations

FROM: Jide Afolabi, Fiscal Negotiator

DATE: September 11, 2025

RE: Self-Government Agreement Tied Approvals Process

INTRODUCTION

Anishinabek First Nations currently approve or “ratify” sectoral self-government agreements individually (e.g. *Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement* (ANEA), *Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement* (ANGA)).

In a “tied approvals process” each Anishinabek First Nation intending to approve any of the Anishinabek Nation’s self-government agreements, including the Anishinabek Nation Child, Youth, and Family Well-Being Agreement (CWBA), would have the option to approve one or more agreements all at once.

The First Nation contemplating approvals of one or more agreements would receive a comprehensive jurisdictional and fiscal briefing, as well as a template “ratification” question that covers all of the agreements. First Nations would not receive briefings and ratification questions for agreements they have already approved.

CONSIDERATIONS

Some considerations regarding a tied approvals process are set out below:

- making it easier to eventually bring various fiscal agreements together;
- First Nations can get a much larger cash infusion, rather than “leaving money on the table”;
- First Nations will experience more flexibility in collective funding to meet their true financial needs; and
- the Anishinabek Nation begins to move toward a reality in which central coordinating bodies, like Koganaawsawin, KEB, and B'Maakonigan, all serve an identical list of First Nations.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE ANISHINABEK NATION CHILD WELL-BEING WORKING GROUP

The question of whether a tied approval process should be considered for the CWBA, ANEA, and ANGA was brought forward to the Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Working Group on August 28, 2025. A poll was used to gather information from the attendees; the results were as follows:

Should a "tied" approval process be considered for the child, youth, and family well-being agreement, the Anishinabek Nation education agreement, and the Anishinabek Nation governance agreement?

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Yes, tied approval process should be considered.



No, tied approval process should not be considered.



Debaachigaadeg	Subject:	Self-Government Tied Approvals Process
E-gaandingang	Mover:	
E-ko-niizhing e-gaadinang	Seconders:	
Be-minideg	Status:	
Nendowendizig	Opposed:	
Gegoo e-kidsig	Abstentions:	

ZHIBIIGAADEG – LET IT BE SAID:

1. Anishinabek First Nations currently approve, or "ratify," sectoral self-government agreements on an individual basis. This includes agreements such as the Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement (ANEA), the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement (ANGA), and the forthcoming Anishinabek Nation Child, Youth, and Family Well-Being Agreement (CWBA).
2. Under a proposed "tied approvals process," First Nations would have the option to approve multiple Anishinabek Nation self-government agreements simultaneously. This process would include a combined jurisdictional and fiscal briefing, along with a consolidated ratification question covering all agreements under consideration.
3. First Nations would not be required to review or re-approve agreements they have already ratified. Only unapproved agreements would be included in the ratification materials and briefings.
4. Considerations supporting a tied approvals process include:
 - Facilitating the future consolidation of fiscal agreements;
 - Increasing financial inflows for participating First Nations;
 - Enhancing flexibility in the use of collective funding to better meet local priorities; and
 - Enabling coordinating bodies such as Koganaawsawin, Kinoomaadziwin Education Body (KEB), and B'Maakonigan to serve a unified list of First Nations, strengthening nation-building efforts.

Zhibiigaadeg (Let it be said):

1. The Koganaawsawin member First Nations support the development and implementation of a tied approvals process for Anishinabek Nation self-government agreements, including the Child, Youth, and Family Well-Being Agreement.
2. This approach enables First Nations to approve one or more self-government agreements simultaneously, based on comprehensive briefings and a consolidated ratification question, while respecting prior ratifications.
3. The Anishinabek Nation Negotiations Team is authorized to work with the relevant coordinating bodies, if they also approve this approach, to advance this process and incorporate it into future engagement and ratification planning with participating First Nations.

Certified by:

Secretary of the Board of Directors

Date

OUR VISION

A sovereign Anishinabek Nation with healthy children, youth and families. Connected to culture by exercising our inherent rights, bestowed upon us by the Creator.



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