



GRAND COUNCIL TREATY #3

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ANISHINAABE NATION IN TREATY #3



ABINOOJII INAKONIGEWIN

REPORT – SEPTEMBER, 2020 – MARCH 31, 2021

Sherry Copenace, MSW, RSW, Theresa Stevens, B.A. , HBSW
& Jordan Bertagnolli, B.Sc. , MPH

INTRODUCTION

Grand Council Treaty #3 has been engaged in a National transition process for Abinoojii Inakonigewin (AI) structured in a 5-year implementation plan.

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed challenges. However, the work towards implementing Abinoojii Inakonigewin has continued.

This report provides an overview of the key deliverables completed during fiscal year 2020/2021. Please note that there are historical AI reports available for further reference.

CEREMONIAL UPDATE

ABINOOJII INAKONIGEWIN CEREMONIES

November 2, 2020: Fall Ceremonies – Wauzhushk Onigum Roundhouse

March 19, 2021: Winter Ceremonies – Wauzhushk Onigum Roundhouse

Technical team advised that upon adhering to Anishinaabe ceremonial protocols, such as the seasonal ceremonies, the Spirits will continue to lead, support and further the work and the fulfillment of AI.

ABINOOJII INAKONIGEWIN MEETING RECORD

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

**All meetings held virtually*

November 26, 2020: Sagkeeng First Nation

February 12, 2021: Big Grassy Community Care Program Staff;
Nigigoonsiminikaaning CCP Staff

April 13, 2021: Naicatchewin Chief and Council Presentation

LEADERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

August 4, 2020: Special Chiefs Meeting - Couchiching

October 15, 2020: Special chiefs meeting – Seven Generations, Kenora

SOCIAL CHIEFS MEETING

October 14, 2020: Discussion prior to Special Chiefs Meeting Oct 15, 2020

January 15, 21, 2021: Updates via virtual meeting

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

The Technical working group is comprised of the Chiefs Committee on Social, Grand Council Treaty #3 Executive Women's, Men's and Youth Council members, representatives of both Weechi-it-te-win, Anishinaabe Abinoojii, and devolved child and family service agencies, community representatives. Meetings have been held once a month virtually.

September 4, 2020

October 2, 2020

November 6, 2020

November 28, 2020: Ombikiasowin Protectorate Workshop

December 4, 2020

January 15, 2021

February 5, 2021

March 5, 2021

April 9, 2021

MEETINGS WITH GIIGITTASHIMINANIG (GRANDMOTHERS AND GRANDFATHERS):

The focus of these consultations with Elders have been to ask their advice and guidance on national oversight bodies as outlined in AI. These discussion centred on the Nokomisaag Circle; how they should be selected and the conditions of that selection as well as the term. We also sought guidance on the process of appointment of the Ka Niigaanibowe't and Ka Niigaanibowiik, the term of this role's appointment, as well as the qualifications for the position. In addition, discussion questions centred around the governance structure of the Ombikiasowin Protectorate.

March 31, 2021: Dryden

April 1, 2021: Kenora

April 8, 2021: Virtual

April 13, 2021: Virtual

TECHNICAL BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA

**All meetings held virtually*

Aug 12, 2020: Implementation Funding Discussion

Oct 26, 2020: Implementation Funding discussion

Feb 9, 2021

TECHNICAL BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH ONTARIO

**All meetings held virtually*

Aug 7, 2020

Feb 26, 2021

TECHNICAL BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH MANITOBA

**All meetings held virtually*

Feb 11, 2021

SENIOR OFFICIAL'S QUADRILATERAL TABLE MEETINGS

**All meetings held virtually*

February 12, 2021 – Hosted by GCT#3

Senior official Representatives from: Grand Council Treaty#3, Southern Chiefs Organization, Ministry of Community and Social Services and Indigenous Services Canada

Purpose: renew and update the table on Abinoojii Inakonigewin, as regular meetings had been disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Commit to twice yearly meetings, next one to occur is in August, 2021 and co development of work plans of the implementation of Abinoojii Inakonigewin in Treaty#3

IMPLEMENTATION VISIBILITY PROJECTS

Several projects have been started to support awareness, knowledge and accessibility to information about Abinoojii Inakonigewin for all of Treaty #3.

VIDEO PROJECT

A videographer has been brought on to film, edit and complete video that would promote and provide information to the Citizens of GCT no. 3 and to the general public. The four areas that the videos will speak to are: History of the making of AI; Process of the development of AI, Ceremonial background of AI and Next steps towards fulfillment of AI. This project has been slowed by COVID public health measures, but is anticipated to be completed early in summer 2021.

POSTER PROJECT

A poster project has been initiated and they will provide information on GCT#3 Abinoojii Inakonigewin. These posters will be made available to the public in early summer 2021.

WEBINAIRS

General public information sessions were hosted Mar 15 and April 29 to provide background knowledge to Treaty #3 citizens on what Abinoojii Inakonigewin is. This session was open to all of Treaty #3. Future sessions will be held to build awareness in Treaty #3, and support code development for interested First Nations.

TRANSLATION PROJECT

Two fluent Anshinaabemowin speakers and writers have been contracted to translate the Abinoojii Inakonigewin law and toolkit. This will be both in audio and written form. These translations will increase the reach of information in the law and toolkit.

ABINOOJII INAKONIGEWIN IMPLEMENTATION

NATION IMPLEMENTATION

Abinoojii Inakonigewin has a five-year implementation plan. The plan provides an outline related to goals, processes and timelines on the transition pathway towards the full implementation of Abinoojii Inakonigewin. In addition to the Nations implementation plan, work plans have been developed with Ontario's Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) and a work plan is currently being developed with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC).

REVIEW OF 5-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Fiscal year 2020-2021 marked year 3 of implementation. Several items identified below remain in progress from the previous fiscal years. A priority for implementation year 4 is to ensure the work to finalize any outstanding transition

phases continues with the necessary engagement and consultation of the knowledge holders, the Technical Working Group and Treaty #3 leadership.

Items remaining in development

YEAR ONE, TRANSITION PERIOD PHASE ONE- Cultural Personification, Community Consultation and Development:

- Funding frame work and agreement to establish multi-year funding – Subworking group focused on financial scoping will resume 2021-2022
- Process of appointment and selection of Ka Niiganibowe't/wiik
- Nokomisaag circle to provide oversight to implementation and support/guidance for ka Niigaanibowe't/wiik
- Community engagement on Abinoojii Inakonigewin and Code development

Items remaining in development

YEAR TWO: TRANSITION PERIOD PHASE ONE- Governance and Administration

- Ombikiasowin Protectorate: Structure, Organizational planning, by-laws, policies and procedures to finalize structure.
- Appointment of Board of Directors to Ombikiasowin Protectorate through adherence to traditional processes and protocols, including recruitment and training

YEAR THREE: TRANSITION PERIOD PHASE ONE (CONTINUES): OMBIKIASOWIN PROTECTORATE

- Traditional Selection Process for Board of Directors of OP –Remaining in development
- Operationalize OP, recruitment of human resources with appropriate ceremonies – Remaining in development
- Steps to transfer responsibility, jurisdiction and authority of child and family services are identified and/or undertaken – Remaining in development

- Consultation with Knowledge Holders, Social Chiefs, Chiefs in Assembly and Bi Lateral and Quadrilateral Tables – continues for year 4 and 5
- Data and Statistics considerations – remain unaddressed
- Development of Standards and Guidelines, Quality Assurance/Accountability systems – remains unaddressed

STATUS OF FIRST NATION IMPLEMENTATION

Grand Council Treaty #3 is in the process of updating the previous environmental scan of where First Nations currently fall within the implementation process. Having this information will ensure that each fiscal years identified work plan can best support First Nations in their code development. Currently:

- 6 First Nations have assented to Abinoojii Inakonigewin: Wabaseemoong, Asuppeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek, Niisaachewan, Ojibways of Onigaming, Naotkamegwanning and Lac La Croix First Nations.
- 16 First Nations are identified as being in various stages of developing customary care codes which are community led, determined and owned.

These numbers will be updated as reporting is provided by First Nations.

AGENCIES OF NATIONAL INTEREST IMPLEMENTATION

The following provides an overview of the status of Agency (Weechi-it-te-win Family Services and Anishinaabe Abinoojii Family Services) implementation of Abinoojii Inakonigewin.

Weechi-it-te-win Family Services		Anishinaabe Abinoojii Family Services
➤ WFS Chiefs Declaration of Principles on Abinoojii Inakonigewin implementation		➤ AAFS Chiefs Declaration completed ➤ AAFS Elders Declaration completed

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implementation plan developed and underway ➤ Recruitment of Abinoojii Inakonigewin Development Position ➤ Community presentations ➤ Regular attendance and updates at TWG 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mission statement changed to reflect ➤ Implementation plan completed and underway ➤ Abinoojii Inakonigewin Development Officer ➤ Agency policy changes being undertaken ➤ Regular attendance and updates at TWG ➤ Part of 5-year implementation plan
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ACTION ITEMS AND NEXT STEPS

Areas of focus for implementation year 4:

1. Co-develop and implement work plans with the two agencies of national Interest, keeping relationship, respect, reciprocity and responsibility as the foundation and principles of our common work towards the fulfillment of Abinoojii Inakonigewin
2. Finalize and implement joint work plans with the MCCSS and ISC
3. Continue consistent meetings with our Knowledge Holders who provide us with wise insight and direction.
4. Continued implementation and transition of Abinoojii Inakonigewin, working to the fulfillment of these critical pieces: Ka nigaanibowe't/wiik, Nokomisag Circle, Ombikiasowin Protectorate and Funding Framework
5. Development and Hosting of a Customary Code Workshop