

INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER



Newsletter Highlight



Wiisokotatiwin Youth and Adult Achievement Recognition

See pages 10-12 for this month's winners as we celebrate the achievements of River Nelson and Jordan Angecone! The Grand Council Treaty #3 Wiisokotatiwin department is honoured to recognize their accomplishments in our monthly newsletter. Each month, one youth and one adult are selected to be featured, receiving a gift card, while all other entrants are entered into a monthly draw. We invite Treaty #3 communities to continue sharing names and stories of members excelling in areas such as entrepreneurship, writing, sports, leadership, and more.

Our Mandate



The Indian Residential School Department of Grand Council Treaty #3 is mandated to provide one to one support for Indian Residential School and Indian Day School survivors claims process as well as to provide support and services through awareness of traditional teachings in respect to rebuilding its families and communities. Healing became an initiative as a result of the Indian Residential School legacy.



**GRAND COUNCIL
TREATY #3**
The GOVERNMENT of THE ANISHINAABE NATION in TREATY #3

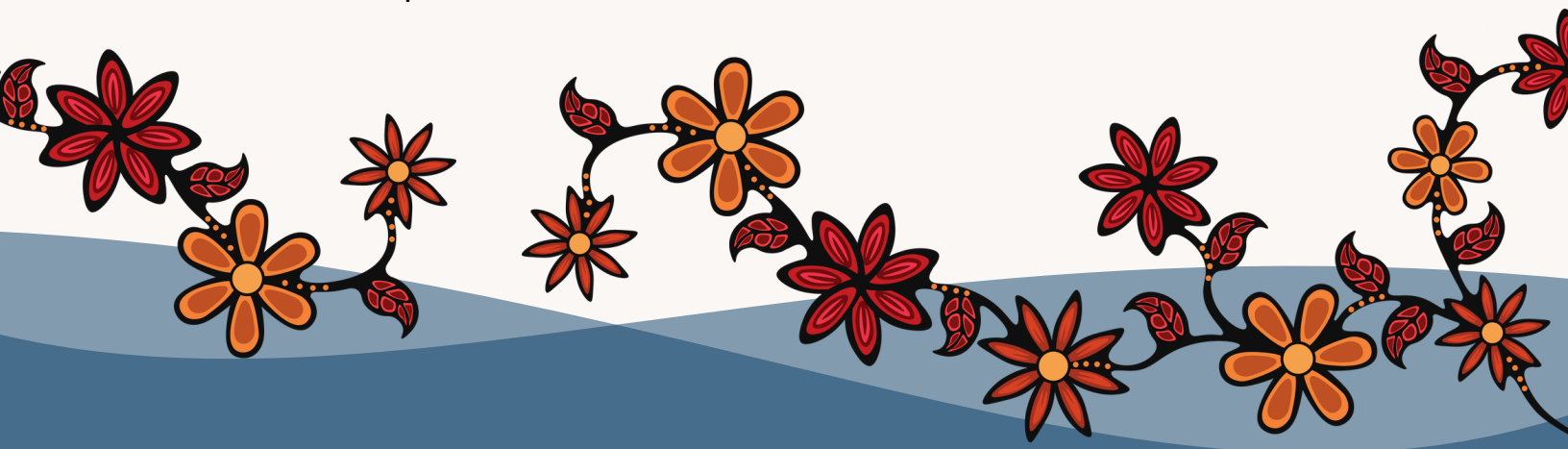


Anishinaabemowin Phrase and Words Monthly Contest Inside!

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Indian Residential Schools (IRS) Updates

For this month we will focus on St. Mary's Indian Residential School which was located in Kenora, ON specifically Wauzhusk Onigum (Rat Portage) First Nation. The school originally opened in 1897 and was first known as The Rat Portage Boarding School. It became known as the St. Mary's Indian Residential School in 1938. In the 1960's St. Mary's began to integrate and assimilate First Nation students into their day-school system. The school eventually closed in 1972.

In a public announcement Chief Chris Skead invited various people from Turtle Island to join them in their book launch that was held in Winnipeg, Manitoba at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. The launch itself surrounded a 4-book series that documents the trials and tribulations that those who attended St. Mary's, and what the community of Wauzhusk Onigum has gone through. This is their way to speak their truth, continue the search of the grounds, memorializing and commemorating their people to ensure that this does not happen again, building a path that promotes healing, so the future generations can learn and move forward in a healthy way while remaining respectful.

Chief Skead states that this was their story that they worked hard on collectively as a tight knit community. They called this journey Kaatagoging – which has multiple meanings in our language, but it translates to 'grave' or 'returning to the Earth' the community, and survivors state that they chose this name to honor their survivors, and to honor those who are no longer Earthside while still growing and moving forward on a path that promotes healing.

To view more, or to make a purchase their website is located at <https://www.kaatagoging.ca>

Contact Information:

Email: Kaatagoging@narrativesinc.com

Phone: (431) 305-8656

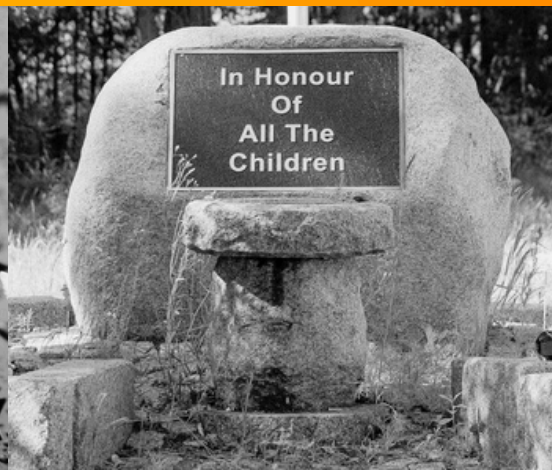




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INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL COMMEMORATION MONUMENTS



The Grand Council Treaty #3 Wiisokotatiwin program, is working to create new monuments at each of the seven Residential Schools within Treaty #3 territory. These new monuments will list the names of those from the Treaty #3 Anishinaabe Nation who attended these schools, ensuring they are honoured and remembered. While submissions from Day School students will be collected for data purposes, only those who attended Residential Schools will be recognized on the monuments. This information will also be archived and stored within Grand Council Treaty #3 records.

Consent and Nomination Form

In 2012, Grand Council Treaty #3 unveiled six monuments to honour the children of (both living and deceased) who attended Indian Residential Schools.

We are dedicated to expanding this tribute by adding the names of individuals from the 28 First Nation communities within Treaty #3 who attended Residential Schools. To include an individual's name on the monument, please complete this consent form, which can be filled out by the individual or an authorized family member on their behalf.

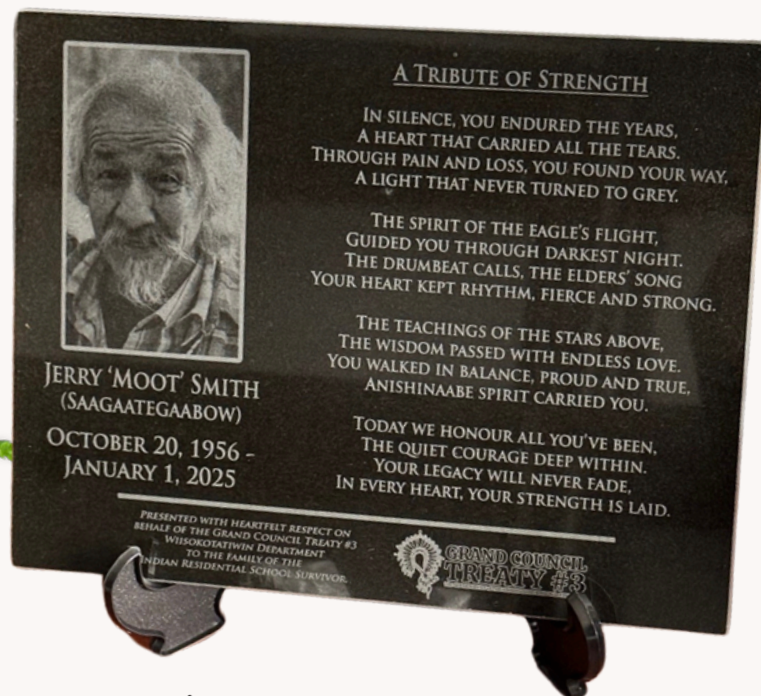




Honouring the Lives of Residential School Survivors

The Wiisokotatiwin team has launched a new initiative to honour the lives and legacies of Residential School Survivors who have passed on. Beginning in January 2025, families with loved ones who were Survivors can receive a commemorative plaque as a gesture of remembrance and respect. These plaques serve as a lasting tribute, acknowledging the resilience and strength of those who endured the Residential School system while recognizing the ongoing healing journey of their families and communities.

This initiative is rooted in the commitment to honour Survivors' stories and ensure their experiences are never forgotten. Each plaque symbolizes a step toward healing and collective remembrance within Treaty #3. Families who wish to receive a plaque or have questions about the initiative can reach out to Mackenzie Archie for more information.





60's Scoop Update

Grand Council Treaty 3 has organized Sixties Scoop sharing circles facilitated by Nadine Swartout. Nadine is a Sixties Scoop survivor, she is also a registered Wabaseemoong member, her parents are the late John Bunting and Leanne Valdivis (Kelly).

We hosted our first sharing circle on January 25, 2025, in Kenora at the Ne-Chee Friendship center. We are looking forward to hosting more of these circles to support our Sixties Scoop members.

The dates of the future circles are:

Saturday, April 12
Saturday, May 10th
Saturday, June 14th



For more information please contact:

stephanie.courtoreille@treaty3.ca
1-877-880-5638 ext. 213

Welcome

NADINE SWARTOUT

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

WE ARE EXCITED TO WELCOME NADINE SWARTOUT AS THE NEW SIXTIES SCOOP COORDINATOR AT THE ANISH HEALING CENTRE!

Nadine is not only a dedicated advocate but also a Sixties Scoop Survivor and a legacy child of the Sixties Scoop. Having been adopted to a non-Indigenous family in Oregon, Nadine repatriated to Canada in her mid-20s, reconnecting with her roots and community in Treaty #3. Her unique journey and passion for healing and advocacy will be invaluable to our work in supporting survivors and families.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Nadine!




FOR QUESTIONS YOU MAY CONTACT:

60scoopcoordinator@anish.ca



What is the 60's Scoop?

The "Sixties Scoop" refers to the large-scale removal or "scooping" of Indigenous children from their homes, communities and families of birth through the 1960s, and were adopted into mostly non-Indigenous, middle-class families across the United States, Europe and Canada. This experience left many adoptees with a lost sense of cultural identity. The physical and emotional separation from their birth families continues to affect adult adoptees and Indigenous communities to this day.



**WE'RE
HERE
FOR
YOU**

Upcoming Dates for Application Assistance:

April 1st Iskatewizaagegan 39 Independent FN
10AM - 3PM | Alice Kejick Memorial Training Center

April 2nd Asubpeeschoseewagong First Nation
10AM - 3PM | Asubpeeschoseewagong Roundhouse

April 15th | Ojibway's of Onigaming First Nation
10AM - 3PM | Onigaming Band Office

Book with us today!
wiisokotatiwin@treaty3.ca



Indian Boarding Home Class Action Application Assistance Program

Grand Council Treaty #3 Wiisokotatiwin Team is here to assist with the Indian Boarding Home Class Action Application process. Our staff provides on-site guidance, answers questions, and helps with applications. Mental health supports, including smudging and traditional medicines, are available throughout the process. We encourage all eligible individuals to attend and seek assistance.

When can I apply?

You can start applying for compensation starting Wednesday August 21, 2024.

How can I know if I am eligible?

Use the eligibility checker available on Indian Boarding Homes Program Class Action website: <https://boardinghomesclassaction.com/eligibility-checker>

How can I start my Application?

Starting on August 21, 2024, you can find the claim forms by visiting the website:
<https://boardinghomesclassaction.com>

You can submit claims online, or by downloading and mailing it to the Administrator.



Traditional Teachings



Cedar - Giizhik

Cedar, along with tobacco, sage and sweet grass, is one of four sacred medicines recognized in the Anishinaabeg culture for ceremony, healing, and wellness. These four medicines can be used in ceremony separately, or in any combination, especially if there is a certain goal to be achieved. In particular, cedar is used for healing, restoring balance and protection against disease. Cedar baths are deeply therapeutic, soothing muscles, relieving stress, and promoting relaxation. Not only does cedar have anti-inflammatory effects, improves respiratory organs and decontaminates the air, the aroma is comforting and calming.

The crackling sound of cedar burning with tobacco is significant in ceremonies, interpreted as a way of calling the spirits' attention to offerings and prayers. In sweatlodges, cedar branches cover the floor, providing a protective layer. During fasting, a circle of cedar surrounds the faster's lodge, creating a sacred boundary for protection. Cedar trees symbolize strength, longevity, and resilience, reflecting the enduring spirit of the Anishinaabe culture.

There are many ways to reap the benefits of cedar; you can smudge with cedar, wear cedar in your shoes, make cedar tea, or simply boil cedar on your stove to release its properties.

If any of our IRSS or families would like some fresh cedar or ground cedar, please reach out to our department anytime.





Land Based Teachings

Hunting

For Anishinaabe people, hunting has always been more than just getting food. It's a way of connecting with the land and showing respect for the animals we share it with. Before hunting, we offer tobacco and say a prayer, asking for a safe and successful hunt. We choose places where animals like moose, deer, and beaver live, knowing their habits and where they find food. We look for tracks, droppings, and marks on trees to follow them, learning where they've been. Some hunters wait quietly, using scents and calls to bring animals closer. Others track them through the woods, following their trails. When we get an animal, we give thanks and offer tobacco, showing our gratitude for its life. We use every part of the animal – the meat for food, the hides for clothing, and the bones for tools. This is how we've lived for many years, and it's still important to us. Tracking involves noticing small details, like broken branches or footprints, showing the careful way we learn about nature. We use everything we can, because we respect the things the land gives us and want to waste nothing.

This knowledge and these practices are passed down through families, taught by our elders. They show us how to hunt respectfully and how to care for the land. We share these stories and skills with our children, so they can continue our traditions for generations to come. It's important that these teachings remain strong, connecting us to our past and guiding us into the future."



Why Self-Care is important for your Physical Health

Self-care is important for your physical health because it promotes health and prevents disease. It also helps maintain your overall health.

Key benefits of self-care include:

- Reduced stress and anxiety
- Lower risk of illness or disease
- Increased satisfaction in daily life
- Boosted immune system
- Prevention of health issues



MMIWG2S UPDATE

Boozhoo, while easing into this new position I have been updating a resource book that includes names and contact information for those who are point of contact for MMIWG2S.

These points of contacts are those that surround the 28 communities that we currently service. I am creating a guideline to follow while facilitating future events with said communities.

Our department is currently planning a gathering "Voices of Strength" in central location Frances, ON. This event will be a 1 day event that will be aimed towards women, and young women and girls. Featuring key-note speakers about how they rised up against adversity, racism, domestic abuse, and more.

If any questions may arise or you are looking for cultural, moral, emotional support please feel free to reach out to Samantha Moyer, MMIWG Coordinator at samantha.moyer@treaty3.ca.



Hearts **H.E.A.L**

I am **Hopeful**.

I am **Extraordinary**.

I am **Anishinaabe**.

I am **Loved**.





Drumming night hosted by Gerry Koster
February 20, 2025



Donation of the Riverside health Care Hospital in Fort Frances.
Susan Councillor with Indigenous Care Coordinators Destiny Wilson and Christie Ottetail



Stephanie and Brian at the
AKRC Elders Gathering in Winnipeg



Donation of warm clothing to UNFC
with Staff member Susan.



River Nelson

River Nelson, a young Anishinaabe member of the North West Angle community, shines bright as a cultural ambassador within Winnipeg. Through powwow dancing, he shares his passion for dancing with others. River selflessly teaches the younger generations at weekly powwow clubs in Winnipeg school divisions, inspiring a new wave of powwow dancers. He is a talented writer; he recently achieved a remarkable 95% on his writing exam. River's creative vision has inspired him to explore film directing and producing. In 2023, he was recognized by the Minister of Families, Nahanni Fontaine for his community work & commitment to preserving and promoting Indigenous culture.

In his spare time he enjoys spending time with family and friends. He loves to hunt and fish and reconnect with his family and friends within treaty 3 territory.



Jordan Angecone

Jordan Angecone (they/she), a proud member of Lac Seul First Nation in Treaty #3, has dedicated their life to advocating for Indigenous and 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. At 30 years old, Jordan has pursued studies in Business Administration, Criminology, and Policing at Wilfrid Laurier University, with plans to complete their remaining credits in the near future. Despite facing personal challenges, including the loss of their brother in 2020, Jordan has remained committed to uplifting their community. This tragedy strengthened their resolve to speak out about the dangers of substance abuse and to advocate for awareness and prevention.

Jordan began working for Lac Seul First Nation in October 2023 in the Human Resources department and now serves as the Director of Youth Services and Community Recreation. In this role, they ensure youth have access to essential services, land-based programming, and recreational activities that support their well-being and cultural identity.

Beyond their work with Lac Seul, Jordan is also the founder of Ever Sick! Consulting (Ever Sick! Arts), a Two-Spirit, First Nations-led business that specializes in 2SLGBTQIA+ policy review, trans healthcare advocacy, event planning, and public speaking. Through their work, Jordan collaborates with organizations across Treaty #3 to remove barriers and create safer, more inclusive spaces for 2SLGBTQIA+ First Nations people. They also served as the Pride Toronto Two-Spirit Ambassador last summer (2024), where they had the chance to perform at the largest pride festival in Canada.

Jordan credits their success to the support of those who believed in them, which has helped them grow into a strong leader and advocate. Their unwavering commitment to uplifting others is a true inspiration, and their work continues to create positive change for youth, 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals, and Indigenous communities alike.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS



The Grand Council Treaty #3 Wiisokotatiwin department would like to acknowledge and honour Treaty #3 Members in our monthly newsletter, celebrating their achievements. Each month, one youth and one adult will be selected to be featured.

Those selected will receive a gift card, and all other entrants will be entered into our monthly draw!

We invite Treaty #3 communities to forward names and stories of members (youth and adults) in 100 words or less.

These areas of achievement could include entrepreneurship, writing, sports, leadership, and more.

Submissions should include:

- Name of the individual and their community
- What they have achieved
- What they have overcome to achieve success
- How their success has changed their lives

Congratulations to our
February Monthly Draw
Winner: Haylen, of Seine
River First Nation!

FREE
DRAW!

PLEASE SUBMIT NAMES TO:

Mackenzie Archie | mackenzie.archie@treaty3.ca

Darlene Bruyere | darlene.bruyere@treaty3.ca



**GRAND COUNCIL
TREATY #3**

The GOVERNMENT of THE ANISHINAABE NATION in TREATY #3



ANISHINAABEMOWIN PHRASE & WORDS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to February's
winner, Dawn Aho from Lac Des
Mille Lacs First Nation!

Q.-Boozhoo, Indinawemaaganag
aandi wenjiiyin?

A - Hello to all my relatives,
where are you from?

A new phrase every month, with
a draw for five spots! Winners
will receive Anishinaabemowin
language books as prizes!

Please send in your answer as to
what the following phrases are
to: susan.councillor@treaty3.ca

Gīnītaa-anīshīnaabem īna?
(GIH-NIH-TAH AY-NISH-
IH-NAH-BEHM IH-NAH)
Howah, gīmīnotaagoz gīī
Anīshīnaabemowīn! (HO-
WUH! GIH-MIN-NO-TAH-
GOHZ GII AY-NISH-IH-
NAH-BEH-MOH-WIN!)

The answers and winners will be
announced in the next month's
newsletter!

**Participate for
your chance to
win prizes!**

5 WORDS TO PRACTICE:

Mīno-ayaa
(MIN-OH-AY-YAH)
fine

Gīīkaājī
(GII-KAH-JIH)
cold
Gīzhīde
(GIH-ZHIH-DAY)
It is hot

Bezhīg
(BAY-ZHIK)
one

Namadabīn
(NAH-MAH-DIH-BIN)
Sit Down





Mackenzie Archie

IRS Cultural Manager
mackenzie.archie@treaty3.ca
Ext.220 | Office Location: Fort Frances



Hayley Jaculak

IDS Support Worker & Admin Assistant
hayley.jaculak@treaty3.ca
Ext.707 | Office Location: Thunder Bay



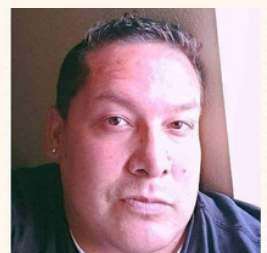
Susan Councillor

IRS Cultural Support Worker
susan.councillor@treaty3.ca
Ext.204 | Office Location: Fort Frances



Stephanie Courtoreille

IRS Cultural Support Worker
stephanie.courtoreille@treaty3.ca
Ext.213 | Office Location: Kenora



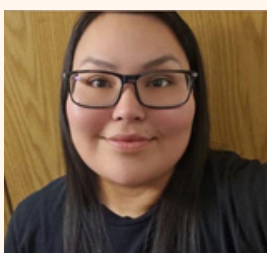
Brian Pelly

Trauma Informed Coordinator
brian.pelly@treaty3.ca
Ext.516 | Office Location: Kenora



Darlene Bruyere

Trauma Informed Coordinator
darlene.bruyere@treaty3.ca
Ext.212 | Office Location: Fort Frances



Sam Moyer

MMIWG Coordinator
samantha.moyer@treaty3.ca
Ext.216 | Office Location: Fort Frances



Have questions or need support?

Contact us today at 1-877-880-5638



IT'S OKAY TO ASK FOR HELP.

Don't fight your battle alone.
Call these helplines for support.



**CRISIS RESPONSE SERVICES FOR
NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO**
Call 1-866-888-8988

SUICIDE CRISIS HELPLINE
Call or Text 988
988.ca

KIDS HELP PHONE
Call 1-800-668-6868
Text CONNECT to 686868
Chat Online kidshelpphone.ca

2SLGBTQ+ PEER SUPPORT
Text 647-694-4275
Chat Online youthline.ca

TRANS LIFELINE'S HOTLINE
Call 1-877-330-6366
translifeline.org

**TALK 4 HEALING: SUPPORT FOR
ABORIGINAL WOMEN**
Call or Text 1-855-554-HEAL
Chat Online beendigen.com

MMIWG CRISIS LINE
Call 1-844-413-6649
mmiwg-ffada.ca

HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE
Call 1-833-900-1010
Chat Online humantraffickinghotline.ca

**NATIONAL INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL
SURVIVORS & FAMILIES CRISIS LINE**
Call 1-866-925-4419

MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTIONS HELPLINE
Call 1-866-531-2600
Text CONNEX to 247247
Chat Online connexontario.ca

CMHA NWO CRISIS HELPLINE
Call 1-807-346-8282
cmha.ca

MEN'S MENTAL HEALTH HELPLINE
Call 1-833-327-6367
menand.ca

NODIN'S CRISIS RESPONSE PROGRAM (SLFNHA)
Call 1-800-446-7863
slfnha.com

HOPE FOR WELLNESS
Call 1-855-242-3310
Chat Online hopeforwellness.ca

ONTARIO HELPLINE
Call or Text 211
Chat Online 211ontario.ca

**GOOD 2 TALK: POST-SECONDARY
STUDENT SUPPORT**
Call 1-866-925-5454
Text GOOD2TALKON to 686868
Chat Online good2talk.ca

YOUTH AGAINST VIOLENCE
Call 1-800-680-4264
Email info@youthagainstviolenceline.com
youthagainstviolenceline.com

YOUTH SPACE ONLINE SUPPORT
Text 788-783-0177 (6pm-Midnight PST)
Chat Online youthspace.ca

**GIISHKAANDAGO'IKWE HEALTH SERVICES
MENTAL HEALTH DIRECT LINE**
Call or Text 1-807-271-0212
(Monday-Friday - 8:30am-4:30pm CST)

"BE SAFE APP" FOR DEVICES - besafeapp.ca
Create a safety plan, find local resources
for support, and be prepared if you find
yourself in a crisis.



**GRAND COUNCIL
TREATY #3**
The GOVERNMENT of THE ANISHINAABE NATION in TREATY #3



STANDING TOGETHER AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

Grand Council Treaty #3
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