

# INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER



## 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.

## Newsletter Highlight



### Wiisokotatiwin Youth and Adult Achievement Recognition

See pages 10-12 for this month's winners as we celebrate the achievements of Jase Kejick-Seymour and Clayton Cameron! 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.



**Anishinaabemowin Phrase and Words Monthly Contest Inside!**



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

# CONTENTS



- 1** Indian Residential Schools (IRS) Updates
- 4** 60's Scoop
- 5** Indian Boarding Home Class Action Application Assistance
- 6** Traditional Teachings & Land Based Teachings
- 8** Self Care: Mental Health
- 9** MMIWG2S Update
- 10** Youth Achievement Recognition: Jase Kejick-Seymour
- 11** Adult Achievement Recognition: Clayton Cameron
- 13** Anishinaabemowin Phrase & Words of the Month
- 14** Photo Gallery
- 17** Wiisokotatiwin Team Contact Information
- 18** IRS Resolution Health Support Program







# Indian Residential Schools (IRS) Updates

## Treaty 3 Annual Residential School Monument Ceremonies – Spring & Fall

Grand Council Treaty 3's IRS Department is launching a meaningful initiative to honour residential school survivors and remember those who never made it home. Each spring and fall, ceremonies will be held at residential school monument sites across Treaty 3.

These gatherings will include flag raising and site clean-up, healing songs, reflection, community connection, stories and teachings from Elders and/or survivors, and a shared meal.



## Residential School and Intergenerational Survivors Sharing Circles

Throughout the month of May, the Wiisokotatiwin IRS Program has held a series of Residential School and Intergenerational Survivors Sharing Circles to support healing for individuals, families, and communities. We were honoured to gather with survivors at the following locations:

- Lac Seul First Nation | May 15, 2025
- Rainy River First Nations | May 16, 2025
- Naongashiing First Nation | May 21, 2025
- Mishkosiminiziibiing First Nation | May 28, 2025

We extend our deep gratitude to all who attended and shared. The Wiisokotatiwin IRS Program will continue coordinating upcoming circles as part of our commitment to ongoing healing and support.



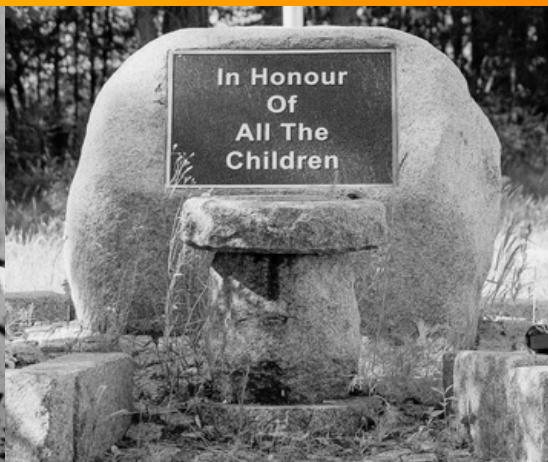




**GRAND COUNCIL  
TREATY #3**  
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# INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL COMMEMORATION MONUMENTS



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.



*Napish Family*







## Share Your Story

Calling all Sixties Scoop survivors—this is your space. We invite you to share your story, your journey, or simply introduce yourself. Whether it's about reconnecting with family, community, or culture, your voice is important. Help us honour your experience and uplift the stories of those who were taken and have found their way home.

### To share, please contact:

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



## 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.







## YOUR MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

We acknowledge the importance of your story and recognize the impact this application can have to your emotional and mental health. We will have support staff present and have traditional medicines and smudging available as we navigate this process together.



**Book an individual appointment or schedule a community visit with us today!**

**[wiisokotatiwin@treaty3.ca](mailto: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.

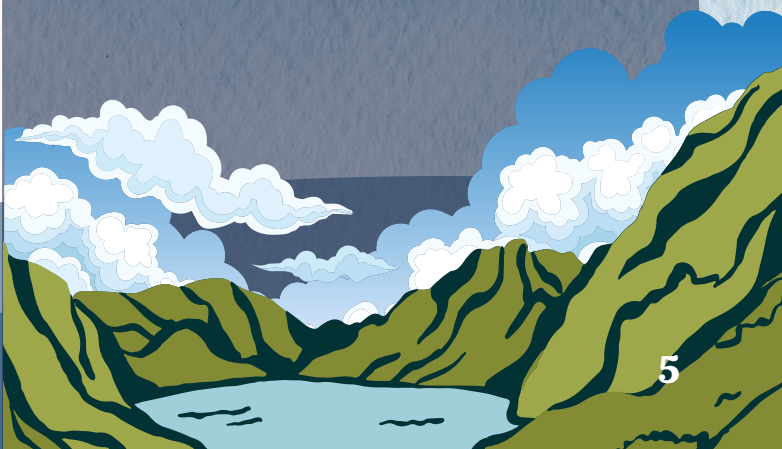
## How can I know if I am eligible?

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.





## Land Based Teachings

### Sweetgrass – Wiingashk

Sweetgrass, considered the sacred hair of Mother Earth, carries a gentle, loving aroma that fosters calm, especially within healing circles. Like sage and cedar, it's used in smudging for purification, often following sage to attract positive energy and spirits. The traditional braid of sweetgrass, typically featuring three cords of seven strands each, beautifully symbolizes the union of mind, body, and spirit. These strands further honor the seven generations past, represent the seven sacred teachings (love, humility, truth, respect, honesty, courage, and wisdom), and look forward to the seven generations to come. More than just a fragrant plant for burning, sweetgrass is a powerful plant medicine that represents strength, resilience, and the deep connection between families, communities, and Mother Earth. The act of braiding sweetgrass often becomes a meaningful community event, bringing us together.

Sweet grass is one of our sacred medicines that we use in our daily everyday teachings. We use it in our ceremonies, we use it in our homes to bless our homes with sage and tobacco and cedar and use it for protection in our homes and vehicles.





# Traditional Teachings



## Anishinaabe Storytelling and Legends

For the Anishinaabe people, telling stories shows how we live. The stories themselves are ways to pass down what happened long ago and what we know from parents to children. These stories have been passed down from parents to children for many years, teaching us, making us laugh, and guiding our spirits.

We tell stories in many ways: old tales and myths, dreams, special songs, and even funny stories about a trickster.

For us, stories have a special power, like a living thing. When we share a story, it connects us to each other, the land, and the spirits. Each time we tell a story, it reminds us how we fit in the world and how we should act. The people and animals in our stories teach us to be kind, to give and take, to be brave, and to respect everything. The trickster, Nanaboozhoo, may be funny, but he also teaches us important lessons about being human.

Legends are often told during the winter and spring seasons. Many elders share different stories depending on the time of year, each one holding unique teachings and wisdom appropriate for that season.

Our elders have a very important and special role in telling stories because they know so many and share them with us. The stories are always alive, keeping their important lessons. Through our stories, we remember our past.



## Self-Care: Prioritizing Mental Health

As Anishinaabe people, we often take on caregiving roles, nurturing others around us. However, it's essential to also take time for self-care, especially for mental health. This helps us maintain the energy and resilience needed to continue being the caregivers our communities rely on. Self-care can be as simple as finding a quiet space for reflection or as significant as taking that long-desired trip. It has the potential to reduce stress and anxiety, boost self-esteem, and enhance the overall quality of life.

## MENTAL HEALTH *Self Care To-do list*



Take a drive



Buy yourself a gift



Meditate for 15 mins a day



Take a Social media break



Get a manicure/pedicure



Take a nap

## Book Recommendation: If I Go Missing

**Author: Brianna Jonnie with Nahanni Shingoose**

**Illustrator: Nshannacappo**

**Grade Levels: Seven, Eight, Nine, Ten**

If I Go Missing is a graphic novel based on a letter written by 14 year old Brianna Jonnie to the Winnipeg Police Service. The text of If I Go Missing is by Brianna Jonnie, Ojibwe, with Nahanni Shingoose, Ojibwe and Irish, and art by Neal Nshannacappo, Nakwe (Saulteaux). This graphic novel begins with a quote from the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the right of Indigenous women and children to be free from all forms of violence and discrimination. Citing statistics and information on murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls, this is an open letter to understand how missing people are treated differently especially Indigenous women and girls by society and men and boys in particular. It is also a call on police services, media and communities to exhaust all efforts to find Indigenous girls and to do this as soon as possible because it is not about the colour of one's skin, socio-economic status, or legal guardianship but details that humanize those who go missing that matters.





# MMIWG2S UPDATE

Miigwech to everyone who joined us for the MMIWG2S+ Healing the Circle Gathering on May 5, 2025, at La Place Rendez Vous in Fort Frances. Your presence helped create a powerful and healing space to honour and remember our missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Elder Margaret Ottertail and the Brown Eagle Drum for opening the day in a good way. Miigwech to Gaakinawataagizod Cheyenne Vandermeer and Mackenzie Archie, Wiisokotatiwin Cultural Manager, for your leadership and opening remarks to open the gathering.

To our presenters—Cassandra Bundz, Danielle Morrison, Anita Ross, Sergeant Tara Singleton, and Jessica Wilson—thank you for sharing your experiences, wisdom, and strength. Your words guided important conversations around advocacy, safety, lived experience, and healing. Miigwech to Donna Anderson for guiding the day, and to the wonderful ladies who provided nail care services—your kindness and care added a gentle touch of comfort and self-care throughout the day. To the many singers and dancers who brought energy and spirit to the Rock the Red Round Dance, including MC Gabe Desrosiers, Fawn Meshake, Alex Copenace, Farrell Desrosiers, Brad Fyfe, Andrew Easton, Ed Nelson Jr, Stickmen Aqua McNabb and Elder Doris Caribou, and Firekeeper Marcus Medicine—miigwech for sharing your gifts and helping us close the day in a good way. A special thank you to Storm Angeconeb for contributing the powerful artwork that helped visually carry the spirit of the gathering.

Miigwech to all the participants for joining us and standing together in remembrance, strength, and unity. Your presence continues the circle of healing and honours those we have lost.





# Jase Kejick-Seymour

Wauzhushk Onigum Nation  
Sports Achievements

I am writing to nominate Jase for the youth sports honorary award. Jase plays multiple sports all year long, and plays on multiple teams. He plays volleyball, basketball, wrestling/mma, and he skate boards. He works hard to maintain a healthy lifestyle so he can keep up with the busy schedule. He overcomes all the stress that comes with being an Indigenous youth living through generational trauma. He's always working towards the next level and challenging himself. He shows his commitment and resilience through being a role model to all youth in our community.





# Clayton Cameron

Wabaseemoong First Nation

My name is Clayton Cameron, and I'm 43 years old from Wabaseemoong Independent Nation. I've worked hard to overcome challenges and achieve my goals. I'm proud to say I've been sober for over three years, proving to myself that perseverance leads to success. One of my greatest accomplishments is completing the two-year Police Foundations program at Algonquin College. It wasn't easy, but my dedication kept me going. I continue to push myself daily through fitness, education, and personal growth. My goal is to inspire others to believe in themselves and work toward a better future.

# 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  
April Monthly Draw Winner:  
Kianna Andy - Anishinaabeg  
of Naongashīng!

FREE  
DRAW!

## PLEASE SUBMIT NAMES TO:

Mackenzie Archie | [mackenzie.archie@treaty3.ca](mailto:mackenzie.archie@treaty3.ca)

Darlene Bruyere | [darlene.bruyere@treaty3.ca](mailto:darlene.bruyere@treaty3.ca)



**GRAND COUNCIL  
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# ANISHINAABEMOWIN PHRASE & WORDS OF THE MONTH

Every month we will be putting a new phrase in the newsletter in which we will be drawing for 5 spots. The prizes will consist of an Anishinaabemowin language books!

Please send in your answer as to what the following phrases are to: [cheyenne.ogemah@treaty3.ca](mailto:cheyenne.ogemah@treaty3.ca)

**Boozhoo,  
Indinawemaaganag  
aandī wenjīiyin?**

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



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

## 5 WORDS TO PRACTICE:

NIIMI'IDIWIN  
(NEE-MI-IH-DI-WIN)  
POW WOW

NIIMI'IDIWAG  
(NEE-MI-IH-DI-WAHG)  
THEY DANCE

DEWE'IGAN  
(DAY-WAY-IH-GAN)  
A DRUM

ASEMAA  
(A-SAY-MA)  
TOBACCO

NAGAMO  
(NA-GA-MO)  
S/HE SINGS

MINAWAANIGWAD  
(ME-NA-WAA-NIG-WAD)  
IT IS HAPPY/ IT IS JOYOUS/  
IT IS EXCITING





*National 60's Scoop Gathering*



*Canadian Firearms Course*



*Boarding Home Application Assistance*



*Hand Drum Making in Naotkamegwanning with Teddy Copenace*





GCT3 Staff Spring Ceremony

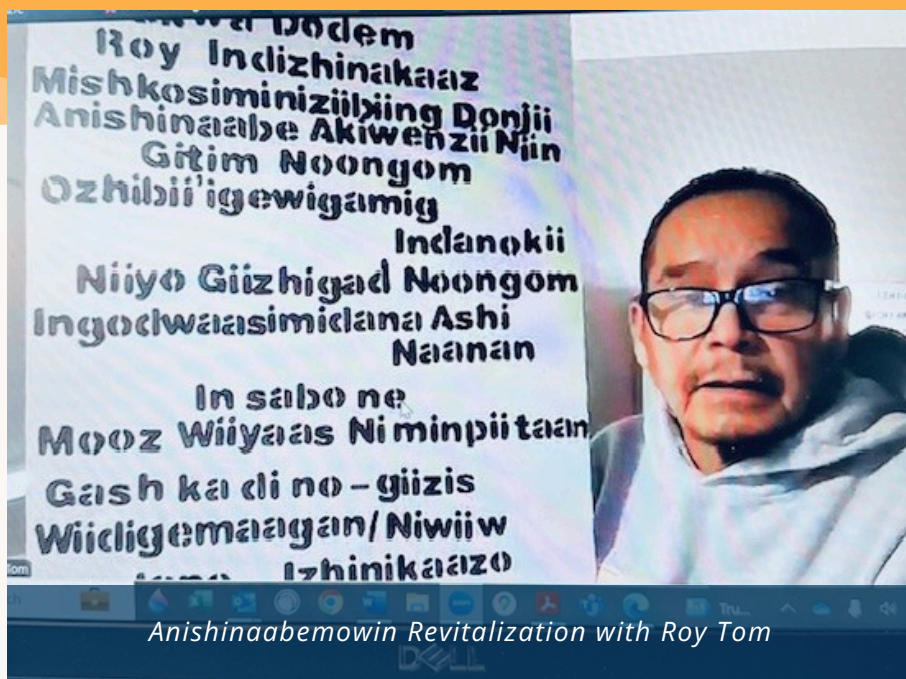


Moose Hide Campaign Event - Fort Frances



## Anishinaabemowin Revitalization

Miigwech to everyone who has attended our Online Anishinaabemowin Revitalization sessions so far! Our next session is coming up on June 18, 2025, from 7:00–8:00 PM CST with Elder Roy Tom from Mishkosiminiziibiing (Big Grassy River), a fluent Anishinaabemowin speaker dedicated to sharing the language across all generations. Participation prizes available! Join us on Zoom!



## Meet the Newest Member of Our Team!

*Cheyenne Ogema*  
**Administrative Assistant**

Boozhoo/aaniin, Giizhebanaakwad nidizhinikaazowin. Name ndoodem, Wabaseemoong ndoonjii. I will do my best to translate it my Anishinaabemowin to English. Hello, my name is Swirl in the Clouds, I am from the Sturgeon clan. I am from Whitedog First Nation. My English name is Cheyenne Ogema, and I am the Administrative Assistant for the Indian Residential School department at Grand Council Treaty #3. I am almost one month into my new position and already it's been an adventurous and educational time with my team and

everyone else in each department. I am always looking forward to what I could be learning and joining in on with both my IRS/IDS team and the rest of the company.

Apart from my professional life, I am also a mother to three beautiful children. Their names are Cairus, Waabigwan, and Waaseyaakwe. Along with my children, I also have the most amazing and supportive partner, his name is Valentine. My own little family is absolutely precious to me, and bonus! We also have four additional kiddos in our kind of little family. With all of that being said about family, I feel compelled to share that I am a huge family person. Besides my own little family, and rest of my family mean the world to me. They are my people. Without my people, I wouldn't be where or who I am today.

I am a person who is both an introvert and an extrovert, I do my very best to remain cool and confident in every event and occasion that I am either brought or invite myself to. I love my music, and I do not have a specific taste, whatever sounds good is good to me. I come from a hockey family, so I am very much involved. GO LEAFS GO, next year is our year (even though they are already out in the playoffs, one cannot ever lose faith lol). I love to travel when I can, even if it's just to Winnipeg lol. I am also a nerd when it comes to movies, Star Wars, Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter, the Marvel series, and any older Disney movies are where it's at for me!

I believe that I have reached the extent of talking about myself. I am extremely grateful for this employment opportunity, and I look forward to becoming more familiar and growing with the staff of Grand Council. Miigwech!

**Have questions or need support?**  
**Contact us today at 1-877-880-5638**



**Mackenzie Archie**

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



**Cheyenne Ogemah**

Administrative Assistant  
cheyenne.ogemah@treaty3.ca  
Office Location: Kenora



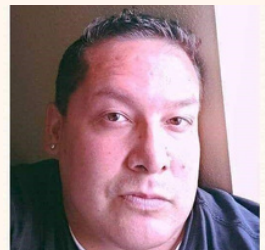
**Hayley Jaculak**

IRS Support & Services Coordinator  
hayley.jaculak@treaty3.ca  
Ext.707 | Office Location: Thunder Bay



**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





## DID YOU KNOW?

In recognition of the intergenerational impacts that the Indian Residential School system had on families, Resolution Health Support Program services are also available to family members of former students of Indian Residential Schools.



### **Family members include:**

- spouse or partner
- those raised by, or raised in the household of, an Indian Residential School Survivor
- any relative who has experienced the effects of intergenerational trauma associated with a family member's time at an Indian Residential School

### **Mental Health Counselling**

Mental health counsellors are psychologists and social workers, who are in good standing with their provincial or territorial regulatory body, and registered with Indigenous Services Canada. A counsellor can work with individuals or families and will listen, talk and assist individuals to find ways of navigating trauma and healing journeys related to Indian Residential School experiences.

### **Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program (IRS RHSP)**

Phone toll free: 1-888-301-6426

Toll free confidential fax: 1-877-430-3306

### **Transportation**

Assistance with transportation may be offered when mental health counselling and cultural support services are not locally available.



# 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 ANISHINABE NATION in TREATY #3





***STANDING TOGETHER AND SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER***

Grand Council Treaty #3  
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