

# INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER



## Newsletter Highlight



### Adult Achievement Recognition

See pages 15-16 for this month's winners as we celebrate the achievements of Tristan Kelly and Kianna Andy!

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 Phrases and Words to Practice Inside!**

## 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 re-building its families and communities. Healing became an initiative as a result of the Indian Residential School legacy.

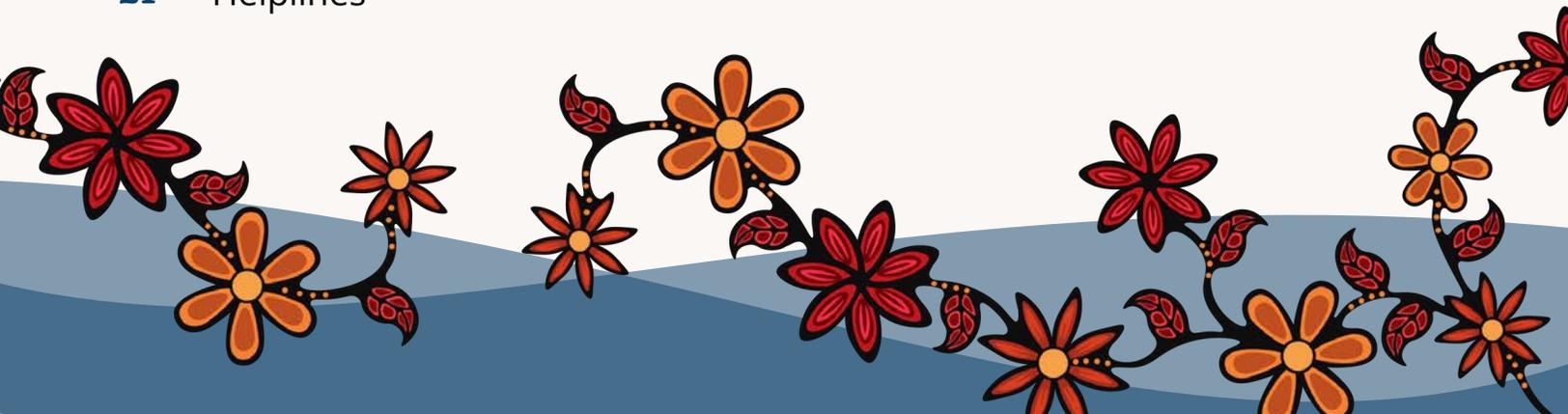


**GRAND COUNCIL  
TREATY #3**  
The GOVERNMENT of THE ANISHINAABE NATION in TREATY #3

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# Indian Residential Schools (IRS) Updates

Below you will find a list of the IRS schools located in Treaty #3, along with contact information. As this newsletter is published monthly, we believe it's important to keep Treaty #3 communities informed about the progress of these searches and any findings, as they will impact us all.

## **Cecilia Jeffrey Site #1** - Iskatewizaagegin #39

Organization: Iskatewizaagegin #39 Independent First Nation

Contact: Christine Kejick | [christinakejick@iifn39.ca](mailto:christinakejick@iifn39.ca) | (807) 733-2560 ext. 701



## **Cecilia Jeffrey Site #2** - Kenora, ON

Organization/Lead Community: Grand Council Treaty 3

Contact: Hailey Krolyk | [Hailey.Krolyk@treaty3.ca](mailto:Hailey.Krolyk@treaty3.ca) | 1-877-880-5638 ext.780

Contact: Nathan DeGagne | [Nathan.deGagne@treaty3.ca](mailto:Nathan.deGagne@treaty3.ca) | 1-877-880-5638 ext.218

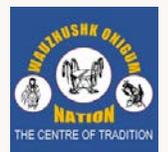


## **St. Mary's** - Kenora, ON

Organization/Lead Community: Anishinaabe of Wauzhushk Onigum Nation

Contact: Eden Klein | [eden.klein@narrativesinc.com](mailto:eden.klein@narrativesinc.com)

Contact: Chief Chris Skead | [cskead@wonation.ca](mailto:cskead@wonation.ca)



## **Kaatagoging** - St. Mary's (Kenora) Indian Residential School Survivors Journey

<https://www.kaatagoging.ca/> | [kaatagoging@narrativesinc.com](mailto:kaatagoging@narrativesinc.com)



## **McIntosh** - Kenora, ON

Organization/Lead Community: Grassy Narrows FN

Contact: Stephen Lands | [Stephenlands13@gmail.com](mailto:Stephenlands13@gmail.com) | <https://www.wiikwogaming.ca>



## **St. Margaret's Fort Frances** - Fort Frances, ON

Organization/Lead Community: Agency One Lands

Contact: Angela Mose | [ceo@agencyonelands.ca](mailto:ceo@agencyonelands.ca) | 807-291-0010

Contact: Stacey Jack | [stacey@agencyonelands.ca](mailto:stacey@agencyonelands.ca) | 807-275-5325

Contact: Laureen Hill | [ceo@agencyonecultural.ca](mailto:ceo@agencyonecultural.ca) | 807-861-0010

[A1@agencyonelands.ca](mailto:A1@agencyonelands.ca)



## **Pelican Lake** - Pelican Falls, Pelican Lake, Sioux Lookout

Organization/Lead Community: Lac Seul First Nation

Contact: Barbara Ruotsalainen | [bruotsalainen@lacseulfn.org](mailto:bruotsalainen@lacseulfn.org)

Bringing Our Children Home Initiative | [BringingOurChildrenHome@lacseulfn.org](mailto:BringingOurChildrenHome@lacseulfn.org)





**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 18, 2025**

**Agency One First Nations welcome verdict affirming Indigenous rights over territory**

AGENCY ONE RESERVE: Couchiching, Mitaanjigamiing, Naicatchewenin and Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nations who collectively share the Agency One reserve lands issued the following statement in response to a court decision that affirmed that the Town of Fort Frances does not have ownership over First Nations land in the Agency One reserve:

“This is not a moment for triumph, it is a moment for clarity,” said Agency One Chiefs and Councils. “This decision reaffirms what our Elders, leaders, and communities have always known - that the promises made to our people cannot be overridden by convenience or assumptions of entitlement.

“This decision brings closure to a long and difficult chapter that spans more than a century of legal uncertainty and contested occupation of lands we know as part of the Agency One Reserve. The Court’s findings affirm that the claims by the Town of Fort Frances to own or control these lands are without legal basis.”

“We recognize that the people of Fort Frances have a longstanding relationship with Point Park. We do not deny the shared history. But we must be clear: future use of these lands must be rooted in mutual respect and a renewed relationship based on recognition of our jurisdiction and rights.

“We call upon municipal, provincial, and federal governments to reflect on the consequences of this case and to work with us — not around us — as we move forward. The harm of past decisions, made without our consent, must not be repeated.

“Our Nations remain committed to building a future grounded in respectful dialogue, environmental stewardship, and shared community wellbeing.”

Agency One First Nations include Couchiching, Mitaanjigamiing, Naicatchewenin and Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nations. Collectively, they were defending themselves in a lawsuit brought by the Town of Fort Frances. The case brought by the Town of Fort Frances was dismissed on June 17, 2025.

**Quick Facts**

- For decades, Agency One First Nations maintain that their lands were surrendered in 1908 but never sold.
- The Town of Fort Frances sought an order to claim that the surrendered land in Point Park legally belonged to the Town.
- Agency One First Nations have been embroiled in lawsuits for claim to their lands since 1998, with Canada, Ontario, and Fort Frances. The verdict of this case brings a long-awaited resolution to decades of challenge for the Nations.

**Media Contact:**

Angela Mose  
ceo@agencyonelands.ca

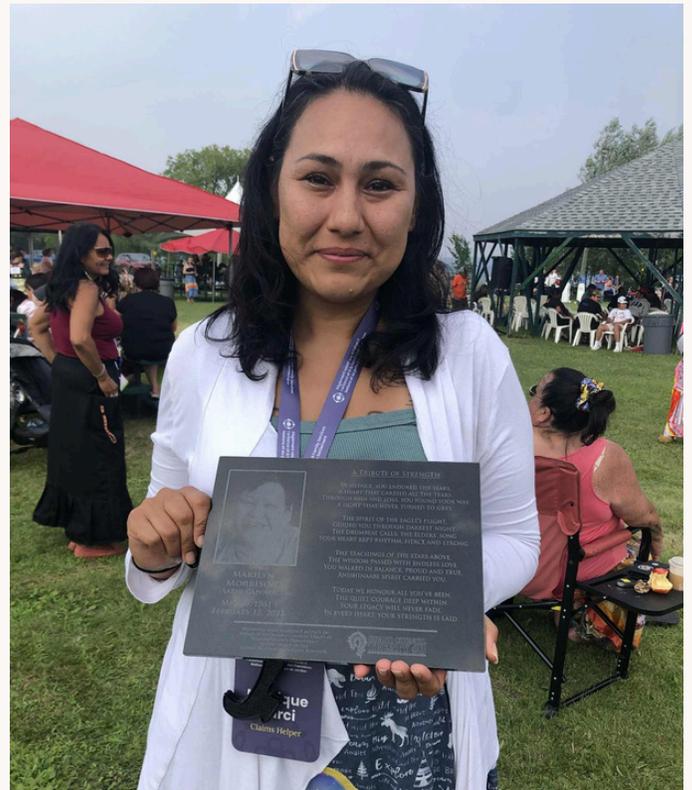


## Honouring the Lives of Residential School Survivors

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.



Monique Cuci from Nigigoonsiminikaaning accepting on behalf of the Marilyn Morrison Family.



# 60'S SCOOP SHARING CIRCLE



WE WARMLY INVITE ALL 60'S SCOOP SURVIVORS & FAMILY MEMBERS TO JOIN US FOR OUR SUMMER VIRTUAL SUPPORT CIRCLES

SUMMER DATES:

6:00 - 8:00 pm EST

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30TH

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27TH

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 846 5503 1715

Passcode: 651126



**Bonnie Johnston is a registered band member of Wauzhushk Onigum First Nation and a survivor of the Sixties Scoop. She has navigated a profound personal journey that informs her work as a Storyteller, Educator, and Social Worker.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION: PLEASE CONTACT  
STEPHANIE COURTOREILLE  
STEPHANIE.COURTOREILLE@TREATY3.CA  
1.877.880.5638 EXT. 213





# INDIAN BOARDING HOME CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT UPDATE



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### "WHEN CAN I EXPECT TO HEAR BACK ABOUT MY CLAIM?"

After you submit your application online or by mail, the average processing time is currently 8 to 9 months. Due to the high volume of applications, there may be delays in reviewing and responding to individual claims. You may not hear back from the claims administrator until after this period.

### "WHEN CAN I APPLY FOR CATEGORY 2?"

Before you can apply for Category 2, you must first complete and submit the Category 1 application. Once your Category 1 application is received and entered into the system, you will be issued a claim number. This claim number is required to access and complete the Category 2 application, as it links your additional claim to your original file. Without it, your Category 2 forms cannot be processed.

### WHO DO I CONTACT FOR AN UPDATE ON MY CLAIM?

If you have any questions about the class action settlement, the process, or the forms, please contact the Claims Administrator. The Call Centre is open from 9 am to 7 pm EST, Monday to Friday, except for statutory holidays. You can mail or email at any time.

Updates are also available at: <https://boardinghomesclassaction.com/>

Mail:

Indian Boarding Homes Class Action  
18 York Street, Suite 2500  
Toronto, ON Canada M5J 0B2

Email:

[claims@boardinghomesclassaction.com](mailto:claims@boardinghomesclassaction.com)

Phone:

1-888-499-1144

#### CLAIMS FILED

Category 1:

16,737

Category 2:

4,4017

#### CLAIMS PROCESSED

Category 1:

Claims Missing Information: 2,572

Claims Denied: 1,627

Claims in review: 9,758

Category 2:

Coming Soon

#### CLAIMS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT

Category 1:

806

Category 2:

Coming Soon

Fort Frances Area: Mackenzie Archie, [Mackenzie.Archie@treaty3.ca](mailto:Mackenzie.Archie@treaty3.ca)  
Kenora Area: Stephanie Courtoreille, [Stephanie.Courtoreille@treaty3.ca](mailto:Stephanie.Courtoreille@treaty3.ca)  
Dryden Area: Brian Pelly, [Brian.pelly@treaty3.ca](mailto:Brian.pelly@treaty3.ca)  
Thunder Bay: Hayley Jaculak, [Hayley.Jaculak@treaty3.ca](mailto:Hayley.Jaculak@treaty3.ca)



# INDIAN BOARDING HOME CLASS ACTION



## **What is the Indian Boarding Homes Class Action?**

In the 1950s, the Indian Boarding Homes Program placed First Nations and Inuit children in private homes for the purpose of attending school. This Settlement provides compensation to people placed in these homes.

You may be eligible to make a claim for compensation if Canada placed you in a private home between **September 1, 1951 and June 30, 1992**.

You may still be eligible if you were placed after June 30, 1992. People who were placed in private homes, but died on or after July 24, 2016, may be eligible and their estate can apply on their behalf.

### **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.

**For more information or assistance with applications, please contact:**

#### **Fort Frances Area:**

Mackenzie Archie, [Mackenzie.Archie@treaty3.ca](mailto:Mackenzie.Archie@treaty3.ca)

#### **Kenora Area:**

Stephanie Courtoreille, [Stephanie.Courtoreille@treaty3.ca](mailto:Stephanie.Courtoreille@treaty3.ca)  
Brian Pelly, [Brian.Pelly@treaty3.ca](mailto:Brian.Pelly@treaty3.ca)

#### **Dryden Area:**

Stephanie Courtoreille, [Stephanie.Courtoreille@treaty3.ca](mailto:Stephanie.Courtoreille@treaty3.ca)  
Brian Pelly, [Brian.Pelly@treaty3.ca](mailto:Brian.Pelly@treaty3.ca)

#### **Thunder Bay:**

Hayley Jaculak, [Hayley.Jaculak@treaty3.ca](mailto:Hayley.Jaculak@treaty3.ca)



## Traditional Teachings

The Seven Grandfathers Teachings aren't just stories from long ago; they are the very heartbeat of our culture, especially for the Anishinaabe people. Their wisdom guides our ways of living, our interactions with each other, and our relationship with the world around us.

The old stories tell of a time when a messenger was sent to observe how the Anishinaabeg were living. What he found was disheartening: people were struggling, their spirits clouded by negativity. There was hatred, disrespect, fear, dishonesty, pride, and shame. These heavy feelings weighed on their thoughts, decisions, and actions. On his journey, the messenger encountered a child—a pure spirit chosen to receive profound wisdom. The Seven Grandfathers themselves appeared to this child, sharing with him the sacred teachings. They made it clear: these teachings are not meant to be practiced in isolation. You can't truly embody Wisdom without also embracing Love, Respect, Bravery, Honesty, Humility, and Truth. To neglect even one teaching is to invite its opposite into your life. Our actions, our character, and our words must always reflect a deep, heartfelt sincerity, woven from the threads of all seven.

### The Seven Grandfather Teachings

**Love (Zaagi'idwin)** To truly know love is to find peace within your spirit. This love is unconditional, boundless, and extends to all of creation. It's in the deep bonds we share with friends and family, but it also reaches out to those who are struggling, for it is when people are at their weakest that they need love the most.

**Respect (Manaaji'idiwin)** We honour all of creation by showing it the reverence it deserves. Every part of this world, from the smallest stone to the tallest tree, from every creature to every human being, holds inherent value. We demonstrate respect by recognizing this worth, by showing courteous consideration, and by appreciating the gifts we are given.

**Honesty (Gwekwaadiziwin)** It takes bravery to face a difficult situation, but true honesty is having the courage not only to do what is right but also to speak your truth, even when it's hard. Let truth be your unwavering guide. Our journey into honesty begins with ourselves; when we are truthful with our own hearts, we can then be truly honest with others.

**Humility (Dabasendizowin)** The profound understanding that we are but one small part of the vast web of creation. It means recognizing our equality with all beings, never seeing ourselves as superior or inferior to anyone else. Humility manifests in many gentle forms: compassion, calmness and, patience.

**Wisdom (Nibwaakaawin)** The sacred blend of these teachings, enriched by the tapestry of life's experiences. It is a gift from the Creator, meant to be used for the good of all. More than just intelligence or knowledge, wisdom is cherished when we apply what we know with sound judgment. It's the ability to discern the deeper qualities and connections in relationships, guiding us to choose positive paths and attitudes.

**Bravery (Zoongide'ewin)** Facing challenges with unwavering integrity is the truest demonstration of bravery. It means doing what is right, even when the consequences may be daunting or unpleasant. We walk through life with the courage to draw upon our inner strengths, to stand tall through adversity, and to make choices that uplift us and those around us.

**Truth (Debwewin)** The deep knowing that comes from understanding our cultural teachings. It empowers us to act with clear conscience, leaving no room for regret. We must strive to understand, speak, and feel the truth, always honouring its profound power.



# Land Based Teachings

## Our Roots, Our Healing: Reconnecting with the Land

The land has always taken care of our body, mind, and spirit. For generations, our ancestors walked the trails, paddled the rivers, and harvested medicines with great care and ceremony. They were the original protectors of this land, making sure that future generations would be healthy and well.

We carry the memories of being out on the land with our grandparents—picking berries in the sun, listening to the wind through the trees, harvesting birchbark, wildrice, sweetgrass, cedar, or sage at just the right time of year. These weren't just chores or outings; they were sacred teachings. That knowledge is a part of us today.

Every plant, root, and berry is a teaching.

- Blueberries: Full of good stuff for our bodies, they remind us of summer harvests with family.
- Wild Rice (Manoomin): A sacred food that connects us to the water and our traditions.
- Sage, Sweetgrass, Cedar: These sacred plants are used in ceremony for prayer and protection.
- Birchbark, Willow Bark, Wild Ginger: Natural medicines passed down for generations to heal everything from fevers to stress.

Today, with all our screens and busy schedules, it's easy to feel disconnected. But true healing isn't found in our phones—it's in the stillness of the bush, the smell of sage burning, and the sound water and animals. When we spend time on the land, we remember who we are as Anishinaabe people.

The land heals us and calms our nervous systems. It reconnects us to our spirit and reminds us that we come from strong, intelligent people who thrived because of their relationship with nature. Reconnecting with the land is not only about survival. It's about identity, culture, and healing. When we carry these teachings forward, we're not just preserving the past—we're strengthening the future.

Let's continue to honor our elders and Knowledge Keepers and follow their guidance and make space for our children to learn in the same way—through experience, ceremony, and presence.



## 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.



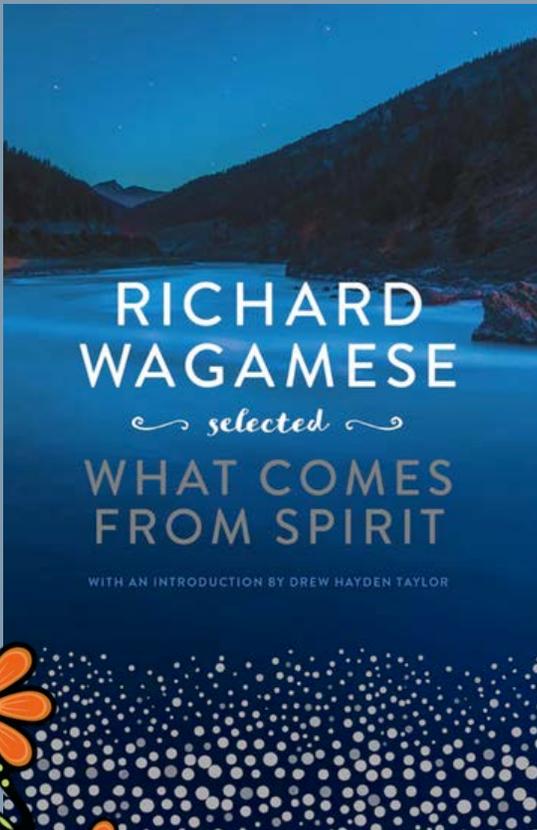
## How does Health fit into self-care?

Health is holistic and multi-faceted. Family, kinship, community strength and mutual commitment between community members have always been the backbone of First Nations communities.

Many First Nations use ceremony as their holistic approach to their self-care, going back to the land. Seek out ceremony to ground you, it could be attending a Powwow, Sundance, going into a sweat lodge or a pipe ceremony.

Our core health starts with self-care, decreasing the risk of diseases and illness by getting regular exercise and proper nutrition, adopting healthy lifestyle habits that can be maintained long-term.

## Book Recommendation



### What Comes From Spirit

**Author:** Richard Wagamese, Drew Hayden Taylor (Editor)  
**Grade Levels:** Twelve, Adult Education, College, University  
**Nation:** Ojibway, Ojibwe  
**Book Type:** Hardcover  
**Pages:** 176  
**Publisher:** Douglas & McIntyre  
**Copyright Date:** 2021

**Description:** Richard Wagamese, one of Canada's most celebrated Indigenous authors and storytellers and Ojibway from the Wabaseemoong First Nation in Ontario and a member of the Sturgeon Clan, was a writer of breathtaking honesty and inspiration. In Richard Wagamese Selected, Drew Hayden Taylor, born and raised on the Curve Lake First Nation in Central Ontario, curates and edits this new collection of Wagamese's non-fiction works. In doing so, Drew Hayden Taylor brings together more of the prolific author's short writings, many for the first time in print. Drawing from Wagamese's essays and columns, along with preserved social media and blog posts, this beautifully designed volume is a tribute to Wagamese's literary legacy. These selected works celebrate Wagamese's ability to inspire as he himself was always striving to be a better, stronger person. Wagamese shared his journey through writing, encouraging others to do the same.



# MMIWG2S UPDATE

We remain committed to raising awareness and taking action regarding the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit (MMIWG2S) issue. Through our continued support, we aim to share resources, support ongoing efforts, and highlight the importance of justice for those affected. Stay tuned for updates on initiatives, support networks, and community actions focused on MMIWG2S.

## What is MMIWG2S?

MMIWG2S stands for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit, a term used to describe the disproportionate rates at which Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit go missing or are murdered, often under circumstances involving violence, neglect, or systemic discrimination. This issue has garnered attention in Canada and the United States, where Indigenous communities and advocates have called for more thorough investigations, accountability, and support for the affected families. MMIWG2S highlights the intersection of gender-based violence, racism, and the marginalization of Indigenous peoples, emphasizing the need for systemic reforms and greater recognition of Indigenous rights and safety.



Boozhoo! The MMIWG Program will keep me very busy. I have been in contact with many communities looking to set up meet and greets along with information and sharing sessions of what the Wiisokotatiwin Department has to offer. We have a couple of events coming up so be sure to mark the dates on your calendar!

**July 3, 2025** – MMIWG2S Awareness Event @ the Nanicost from 9 am – 4 p.m. This event is in partnership with Weechi-it-te win Family Services. Come on out for a fun, interactive day of learning and listening to some awesome guest speakers. Attendance draws will be made following the event.

**July 7, 2025** – Women's Girls Self-Care Workshop in Kenora: Facials, manicures, pedicures and haircuts. Limited to 30 spots.

If you have any ideas or would like a visit in your community, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to working with you.

Miigwech,  
Rachel Snowball, MMIWG Coordinator

Weechi-it-te-win Family Services  
and Grand Council Treaty 3 Presents:

# Together for Healing

An MMIWG2S Awareness Event

Snacks & Lunch Provided

**July 3, 2025**

Time: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Location: NANICOST Gym - Agency 1 Territory

## Presentations:

Online Safety  
Fort Frances Victim Services  
Empowerment Activity

## Guest Speakers:

Angeline Andy  
(in Memory of Autumn Andy)  
Thomas Manning  
MMIMB

## Elder:

Doris Caribou



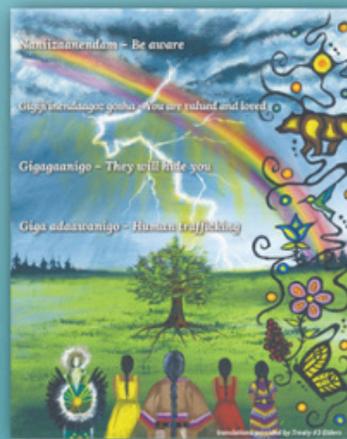
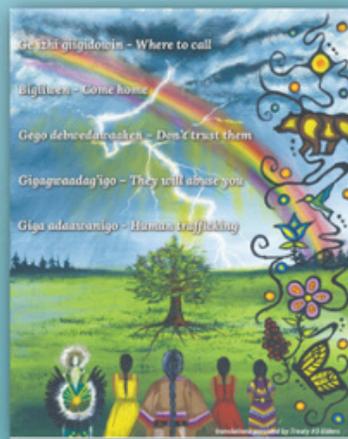
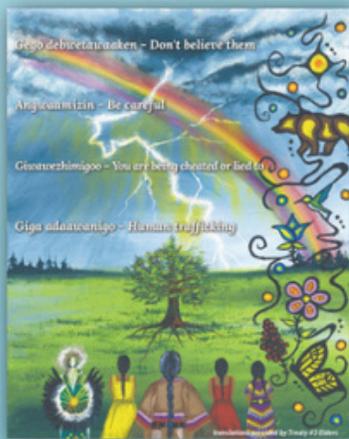
To register, please contact  
Chelsey Blackjack - Anti Human Trafficking Worker  
(807) 274 3201 ext. 2110 or [chelsey.blackjack@weechi.ca](mailto:chelsey.blackjack@weechi.ca)  
Raechel Snowball - MMIWG Coordinator  
(807) 271 3862 [raechel.snowball@treaty3.ca](mailto:raechel.snowball@treaty3.ca)



**GRAND COUNCIL  
TREATY #3**  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ANISHINAABE NATION IN TREATY #3

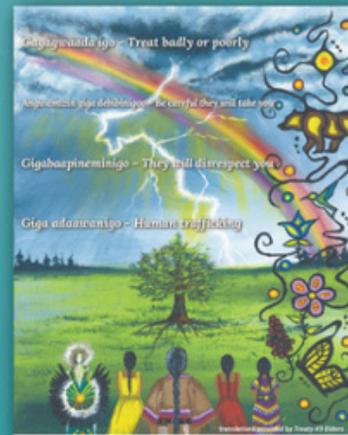


**WEECHI-IT-TE-WIN**  
Family Services



# GIGA-DIZHINDAMIN O'OW ADAAWEMIGOSIWIN

## "LET'S TALK ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING"



### How to combat human trafficking:

Engage and participate in community events-presentations-learning what to look for and how to become an ally against human trafficking, embracing advocacy tools like World day against Human Trafficking-creating a public awareness campaign, seek out online free training opportunities,

Listen without judgement, if you hear something, know something, looking to help someone, know where to report it-EG. Law officials, human trafficking hotline, community frontline workers, trusted person, school helpers.

### Safety tips for children:

#### 1. Know Personal Information

Children should be able to recite their full name, address and phone number. This is crucial for them to be able to get help if they are separated from their caregivers or in a dangerous situation.

#### 2. Learn Emergency Procedures

Teach children how and when to call 911. Explain that 911 is for emergencies and what constitutes an emergency. (eg. Feeling unsafe, being approached by a stranger or witnessing something harmful)

#### 3. Identifying Safe Adults and Places

Children should know who they can trust (parents, teachers, trusted friends) and where they can go for help if they are unsafe. This could be a store clerk, a teacher or another trusted adult in the community.

#### 4. Be Aware of Online Dangers

Educate children about the potential dangers of the internet and social media. This includes not sharing personal information online, being cautious about interacting with strangers, and avoiding meeting people they've met online in person.

#### 5. Trust their Instincts

Teach Children to listen to their "gut feelings" and to trust their instincts if something feels wrong or unsafe. Encourage them to tell a trusted adult if they feel uncomfortable or threatened, even if it's a secret they were asked to keep.

# 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  
June Monthly Draw Winner:

Karsyn Mainville of  
Couchiching First Nation



#### PLEASE SUBMIT NAMES TO:

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

Cheyenne Ogemah | [cheyenne.ogemah@treaty3.ca](mailto:cheyenne.ogemah@treaty3.ca)



**GRAND COUNCIL  
TREATY #3**

The GOVERNMENT of THE ANISHINAABE NATION in TREATY #3



# Tristan Kelly

Wauzhushk Onigum

Tristan Kelly of Wauzhushk Onigum First Nation is a grade 12 graduating student at St. Thomas Aquinas High School. Tristan has played many varsity sports but his biggest passion is volleyball. He's received MVP awards, won NORWOSSA and OFFSA winning consolation last fall. Tristan also joined and competed for Treaty 3 Titans, and was on the volleyball team for Ontario competing at NAIG. His latest accomplishment is being considered for the ALL-NATIONS Elite All-Indigenous team consisting of players across Canada. Tristan has worked hard to achieve his successes and plans on playing volleyball in college.



## Kianna Andy

Big Island First Nation

Kianna is a proud member of the Big Island First Nation, the Anishinaabeg of Naongashiing Nation. She is a trailblazer in her family, leading the way and setting an example for her 7 younger siblings by attending post-secondary. Kianna is a determined young Anishinaabe Ikwe, who took the brave step of leaving the north to attend college in London, after being a straight A student in high school. She courageously left her family behind yet is still connected with them, and taken special care to still be the Big Sister to her younger siblings. She is planning on working in the Child and Youth Care field, providing guidance and safety for Indigenous Youth. Her positive attitude is an excellent example of how we continue to walk in Biimadiziwin.

# ANISHINABEMOWIN WORDS & PHRASES OF THE MONTH



New phrases and words every month to practice in Anishinabemowin!

Question:  
Aaniin ezhi-  
ayaayan?

Translation:  
Hello, how are  
you?



## 5 WORDS TO PRACTICE

**Niminwendam**

*I am happy*

**Nimaanendam**

*I am sad*

**Nijiikendam**

*I am excited*

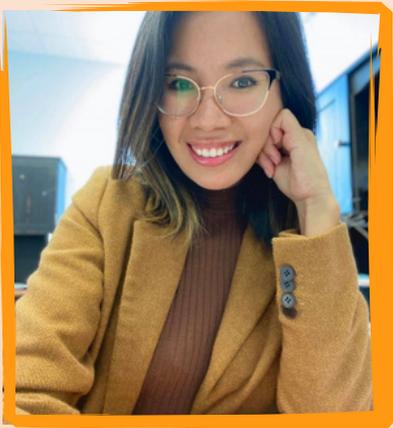
**Ninishkaadiz**

*I am angry*

**Nindeyekoz**

*I am tired*

## First Nations Child & Family Services Jordan's Principle Settlement Navigators



*Autumn Windego*

Boozhoo,

Niizhiisebinesiikwe indigo, Autumn Windego indizhinikaaz, Makwa indoodem. My community is Seine River First Nation but home for my family is in Rainy River First Nations.

I'm excited to share that I've recently joined Wiisokotatiwin / Indian Residential School Team at Grand Council Treaty #3 as the First Nations Child and Family Services / Jordan's Principle Settlement Navigator.

In this role, I'm here to support and guide individuals and families through the First Nations Child and Family Services and Jordan's Principle Settlement compensation process. My goal is to help make everything as clear, smooth, and supportive as possible - in a way that honours our communities, our stories, and our truths.

Each month, I'll be sharing updates and resources through this newsletter. Please don't hesitate to reach out - I look forward to connecting with you and walking alongside you in this important work.



*Kailyn Archibald*

Boozhoo!

My name is Kailyn Archibald, I am a member of Naotkamegwaning First Nation in the Treaty #3 Territory. My passion for Indigenous issues and my own life experiences have ultimately led me to where I am today. For the past six years, I've had the privilege of working for Grand Council Treaty 3 serving the 28 communities and their members.

My professional journey has been rooted in justice and healing. Through my work with Gladue, I have contributed to ensuring that the systemic and intergenerational impacts of colonialism are meaningfully recognized in legal processes. One of the most rewarding aspects of my career has been to watch individuals reconnect with their traditional ways of life as part of their healing journey - a testament to the resilience and spirit of Anishinaabe people

In my current role as a Settlement Navigator for the First Nations Child and Family Services / Jordan's Principle Settlement, I will continue this work by guiding and supporting community members through the claims process, ensuring claimants feel heard, understood, and empowered as they navigate this process.



## First Nations Child & Family Services Jordan's Principle Settlement Navigators



We're excited to introduce ourselves as the new First Nations Child and Family Services Jordan's Principle Settlement Navigators with Grand Council Treaty #3. Autumn Windego recently joined Grand Council to take on this role, and Kailyn Archibald has come on board through the IRS department to support the work. Some of you may already know Kailyn from her time with the Justice Team. We feel honoured to be working together on something so important, and we wanted to take a moment to share a bit about what we've been up to.

Lately, we've been spending our time learning and grounding ourselves in the purpose of this work. We've been reading through the Jordan's Principle Settlement, along with other related class actions, to better understand the claims process and what support looks like for families and individuals across our territory. We've also been working on some tools and resources to help us do that work in a good way, including a work plan, an outreach presentation, and a toolkit for both communities and service providers.

Since there are 28 First Nation communities across Treaty #3, we've split things up so we can each focus on building strong relationships with the communities we're supporting. We're really looking forward to getting out into community, sitting with people, answering questions, and offering support in a way that's accessible, respectful, and culturally rooted.

We've also been thinking ahead and coming up with ideas for a regional gathering. The vision is to bring together frontline workers and service providers to connect, share knowledge, and build awareness around the Settlement and available supports. We're also hoping to create something similar for community members, with a focus on healing, wellness, and cultural connection. These are still early ideas, but we're feeling inspired and hopeful about bringing them to life.

A big part of what we've been talking about is the importance of wellness throughout this process. We want to help create spaces where people feel emotionally, spiritually, and culturally supported. Some of the things we've been exploring include sharing circles, wellness gatherings, and offering support to help individuals connect with Elders or attend ceremony. We know healing looks different for everyone, and we want to be as supportive and flexible as we can.

We also recently joined the GCT3 staff for a team-building day on the lake in Kenora. It was a beautiful day filled with connection, laughter, and reflection. It reminded us how important it is to take time to build relationships and support each other as we do this work.

We're truly honoured to be part of this initiative and are looking forward to connecting with each community. Whether you need help navigating the claims process, are looking for cultural support, or just want to learn more, we're here for that. We're here to walk alongside you, not just as workers, but as people who care deeply about our communities and this journey.

Miigwetch,  
Autumn Windego and Kailyn Archibald  
First Nation Child and Family Services Jordan's Principle Settlement Navigators

# First Nations Child and Family Services & Jordan's Principle Settlement



Boozhoo,

Grand Council Treaty #3 has recently implemented the First Nations Child and Family Services & Jordan's Principle Settlement Navigator Program. We are reaching out to introduce ourselves and to offer our assistance in connection with the **First Nations Child and Family Services & Jordan's Principle Class Action Settlement**. This important settlement is aimed at recognizing and compensating First Nations children and families who experienced discrimination in accessing essential public services. Our role is to help ensure that eligible individuals and families from your community are informed, supported, and guided throughout the claims process.

**The first claims period of the settlement opened on March 10, 2025. Class Members of the Removed Child Class and the Removed Child Family Class can now submit a claim for compensation.**

We understand the sensitivity and importance of this matter and would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with your leadership to provide the following:

- Community information sessions: A group-based overview of the Settlement and Claims Process. Sessions can host up to 20 people and typically run 60 to 90 minutes.
- Claim Form Workshops: Guided form-filling workshops for small groups (up to 20), generally lasting 90 minutes, with optional follow-up drop-in sessions.
- Drop-in supports: Brief, 15-minute check-ins for anyone needing quick assistance after a session or workshop.
- One-on-one appointments: Personalized sessions (up to one hour) to walk through the process in more detail or help gather documentation.

Miigwech for your time and continued leadership. We look forward to walking alongside your community in this important work.

Autumn & Kailyn

## Contact Information:

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Monthly updates and helpful resources can be found in the Wiisokotatiwin Department Newsletter. Please reach out if you or someone you know have questions, need support, or would like to host a session.

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



## Mackenzie Archie

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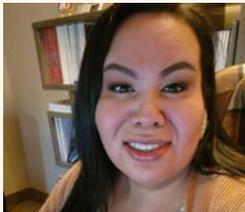
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## Autumn Windego

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## Kailyn Archibald

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Ext. | Office Location: Kenora



# 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  
slnha.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  
P.O BOX 1720, Kenora, ON P9N 3X7  
1.877.880.5638  
[www.GCT3.ca](http://www.GCT3.ca)

