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NIIWIN WENDAANIMOK

FOUR WINDS

October
2021

Wauzhushk Onigum

Washagamis Bay

Shoal Lake 40

Niisaachewan

Project Recap

Since 2018, the Niiwin Wendaanimok Partnership has been working to secure the territorial interests of the Anishinaabeg of **Wauzhushk Onigum**, **Washagamis Bay**, **Shoal Lake 40**, and **Niisaachewan**. This is the eighteenth newsletter produced since the formation of the Partnership. The Partnership's mandate has been focused on the twinning of Highway 17, which is proposed to be constructed over 3 Phases between the Manitoba / Ontario border and Kenora ("the Project"). The Partnership has been working hard to understand and mitigate the impacts of the Project and to secure opportunities for the four Nations.

2020 saw the completion of Phase 1 of the Anishinaabe Aki Kakendamowin (AAK), the documentation of the knowledge and practices associated with the care and protection for the lands, skies, soils, and waters. This knowledge has been used to identify and assess potential impacts of Phase 1 of the Project through the unique Harmonized Impact Assessment (HIA). The HIA was brought into ceremony in April, 2021 and is now publicly available at <https://niiwinwendaanimok.com/#hia>.

The Partnership is currently in the process of building an **Anishinaabe Guardians Program** and is offering a paid Training Weekend Event for those

interested in the Program. Learn more on **Page 2**!

The Partnership recently began training sessions for Heavy Equipment Operators and is currently looking to hire a Community Training Navigator for Shoal Lake 40 and a Life Skills Coach/Counsellor! See **Page 2** for details.

Anishinaabe Guardians Program

The Niiwin Wendaanimok Partnership is currently building an Anishinaabe Guardians Program for community members to learn on the land from the Elders and monitor the environment of the territory. Guardians will protect their traditional territories by enforcing the Manito Aki Inakonigaawin and ensuring all mitigation measures in the HIA are being followed when construction begins.

A **paid Training Weekend Event** will be held **November 19th and 20th, 2021!** This will be a chance to test out the kinds of work that Guardians will do and receive certifications to use towards future opportunities!

The agenda includes:

Friday, November 19, 2021

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM: Introduction to the Program and Manito Aki Inakonigaawin

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM: Anishinaabemowin lesson

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM: Lunch (provided)

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM: Teachings with the Elders

Saturday, November 20, 2021

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Visit the future construction site and learn about the land, the project, and the Guardians Program with Elder George Kakeway

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM: Lunch (provided)

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM: Photography and Videography Training

In addition to these scheduled activities, you will also have access to online training that you can complete at your own pace during the week. You will have the chance to receive the following certifications:

- Pleasure Craft Operator Boating Licence
- Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS)
- Anishinaabe Guardians Program Training Week Completion Certificate

Spots are limited for this paid training!

To learn more or to register, please email admin@niiwinwendaanimok.com or send us a message on Facebook! When registering, please let us know if you will need a ride or access to a computer for the training.

Anishinaabe-gaagiigido?

Are you fluent in Anishinaabemowin and English? The Niiwin Wendaanimok Partnership is in search of translation services so that documents and materials can be made available in Anishinaabemowin. If you or someone you know is able and willing to provide Anishinaabemowin translation, please email info@niiwinwendaanimok.com or send us a message on Facebook!



Boil Water Advisory

Lifted in Shoal Lake 40!

After experiencing over two decades of a boil water advisory, one of our partners, Shoal Lake 40 First Nation, has lifted the advisory in an act of resiliency, strength, and advocacy. On **Wednesday, September 15th, 2021**, Shoal Lake 40 celebrated the opening of their long-anticipated water treatment plant. Congratulations, Shoal Lake 40 First Nation! We stand by you!

Come work with us!

The Niiwin Wendaanimok will soon be looking for a Life Skills Coach/ Counsellor. The **Life Skills Coach/Counsellor** is responsible for providing assistance and information to job seekers on all aspects of their employment search and career planning. The Life Skills Coach will provide guidance in essential skills training and

assist in identifying barriers to employment. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook for this and other postings! <https://niiwinwendaanimok.com/work-with-us/>

Heavy Equipment Operators

We are excited to announce that we have started our first Heavy Equipment Operator training session! The HEO course runs for 8 weeks, and participants will receive their Heavy Machine Operator Certification upon completion of the course.

Our trainees are motivated and excited to be a part of this phase of the twinning project. Please contact your Community Training Navigator for upcoming training activities and recruitment events in your community! Washagamis Bay - Stewart Sinclair
Wauzhushk Onigum - Joe Cameron
Niisaachewan Anishinaabe Nation - Andrew Jameson
Shoal Lake #40 First Nation - **Currently recruiting for a Navigator!**

Traditional Teachings

Moozoog (Moose)

The AAK provides a valuable opportunity to safeguard traditional knowledge for future generations. With education as a key principle of the MAI, these newsletters include traditional teachings shared by community members during the AAK. This month we would like to share some teachings on moozoog (moose).

Moozoog (moose) are an Anishinaabe totem symbolizing endurance and strength. Fall is the traditional time for moose hunting, as they are gaining weight to prepare for winter. Like all animals, moozoog (moose) are highly respected by the Anishinaabeg. Respect for moozoog (moose) is demonstrated through prayers and protocols that take place before, during, and after mooz (moose) hunting. Moozoog (moose) are also respected by using every part of the animal. Traditionally, this involves sharing mooz (moose) meat within the community and making use of other parts of the animal like the organs, bones, **moozwashkan (moose antlers)**, and hide. Mooz (moose) is a popular dish at traditional fall feasts.

September and October is when mating between moozoog (moose) begins, with calves being born in May and June of the following year. **Naabe-mooz (bulls)** carry moozweshkan (moose antlers), which are grown and shed each year. Moozweshkan (moose antlers) begin to develop in the spring and are fully formed by early fall. Naabe-mooz (bulls) shed their moozweshkan (moose antlers) between November and March. Community members have shared that moozoog are less common in the region than they used to be, but moozoog remain an important part of Anishinaabe tradition.



Manito Aki Inakonigaawin

Our Teachings, Our Protocol

One of the core principles under the Manito Aki Inakonigaawin is to rebuild our Anishinaabe economy, meaning participation, which will contribute to the regional economy, and build resiliency for our futures.

When Treaty 3 was signed in 1873, there was agreement that the Anishinaabeg would be involved in the regional economy. However, the Anishinaabeg have historically been left out of the regional economy, especially where it involves infrastructure like roads,

hydroelectric development, and forestry. Now we are getting fully involved and participating in a manner where it creates partnerships and relationships. We are setting a precedent for the future, to rebuild our economy and kickstart the unfinished business of participating in the regional economy.

The Niiwin Wendaanimok Partnership is dedicated to implementing this principle of the MAI by creating meaningful opportunities for the Anishinaabeg. The

Partnership is and will continue to be offering various types of training and employment so community members can participate in every part of the project, from building the road to monitoring the environment years after it is built. Along each stage, this work will be guided by the Manito Aki Inakonigaawin.



The Niiwin Wendaanimok in Action

Here are a few of the activities and meetings conducted since the middle of September.



Follow us on
Facebook!



Be sure to follow our page for updates, current news on the project, upcoming events and contests, and chance to give your feedback

Community Coordinators

Shoal Lake 40

CASSANDRA REDSKY
(807)464-5762
cassandraredsky@outlook.com

DAVY REDSKY
(204)914-3035
davyredsky37@gmail.com

Wauzhushk Onigum

TERRY SKEAD
(807)407-5603
tjskead@hotmail.com

Niisaachewan

BERNICE MAJOR
(807) 407-5686
bmajor@niisaachewan.ca

Washagamis Bay

KRIS CHARTRAND
(807)543-6747
kristopher.chartrand@wbfn.ca

The Niiwin Wendaanimok Community Coordinators are responsible for setting up meetings and managing logistics in each community. If you'd like to contribute to the project or know a friend or family member who might (including catering or assisting with distributing fliers or other support), please give your Community Coordinator a call!