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NIIWIN WENDAANIMOK

FOUR WINDS

September
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 seventeenth 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 on April 30th, 2021 and is now publicly available at <https://niiwinwendaanimok.com/#hia>.

The Partnership is currently in the process of building an Anishinaabe Guardians Program. This will provide opportunities for community members

to be responsible for protecting their traditional territories by enforcing the Manito Aki Inakonigaawin and ensuring all mitigation measures in the HIA are being followed when construction begins. Learn more about the Program on **Page 3!**

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. Community Members 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.

If you're interested in participating in the program, a **paid Training Weekend** will be held **November 6th and 7th, 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!

Lunch will be provided. Activities will include visiting the future construction site, learning about water quality, hearing knowledge and stories from the Elders, and receiving photo and video training! 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

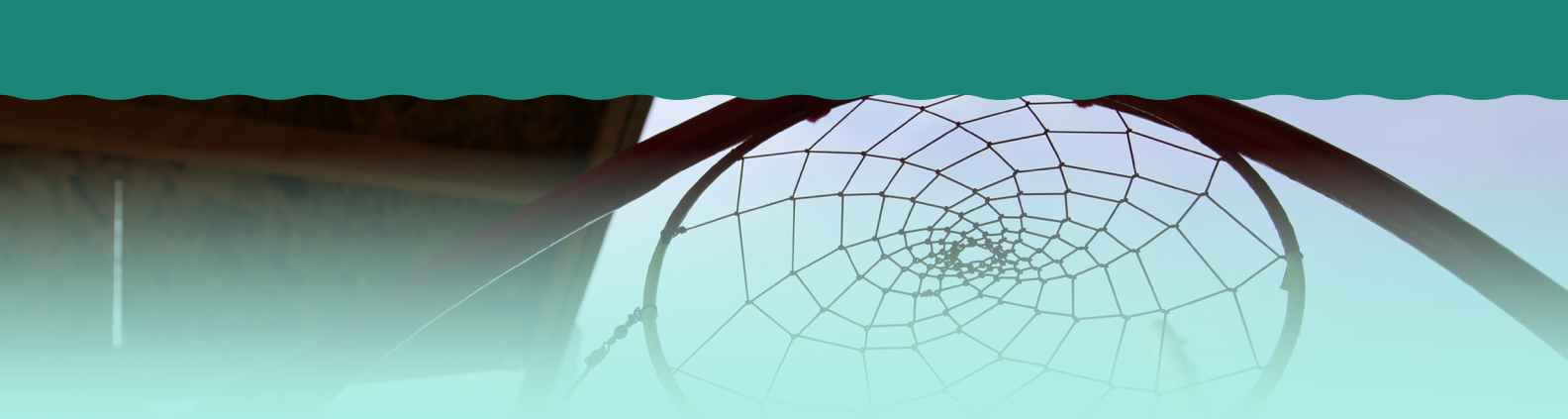
Rides to training sites may be provided depending on needs of participants.

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. If you would like to learn more about the Program, an informational video was recently shared on the Niiwin Wendaanimok Facebook page. Check it out at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=6071048146299275>!

ANISHINAABE GUARDIANS PROGRAM
NIIWIN WENDAANIMOK PARTNERSHIP

Ceremony in Couchiching First Nation Manito Aki Inakonigaawin and Nibi Declaration

The Territorial Planning Unit is working to understand the strengths, priorities, and gaps relating to the implementation of Manito Aki Inakonigaawin and the Nibi declaration. A Grand Council Treaty #3 ceremony was held in Couchiching First Nation on August 17th, 2021, signifying the beginning of this important project as per traditional Anishinaabe protocol. In attendance were Chief Perreault, Grand Council Treaty #3 Staff, and over 28 Elders who showed up to share their thoughts. This work will help promote a deeper understanding of how Manito Aki Inakonigaawin and the Nibi Declaration can be practically applied within Grand Council and Treaty #3 communities and will identify pathways forward for the Manito Aki Inakonigaawin and Nibi Declaration.



Manito Aki Inakonigaawin

Our Teachings, Our Protocol

The Manito Aki Inakonigaawin unifies the Anishinaabeg. Its traditional protocols are observed across 28 communities and over 55,000 square miles of traditional territory in the Anishinaabe Nation of Treaty #3. Following the MAI allows us to effectively cooperate and work together with other communities because the Law serves as a common basis for planning and decision-making. It also allows us to respect the individual processes and negotiations of other communities because we can trust that decisions guided by the MAI will prioritize the wellbeing of the environment and the Anishinaabeg.

Not only does the MAI promote unity throughout the territory, but it offers guidance for how unity can be achieved. The MAI outlines engagement protocols that can inform processes for collaboration and partnership.

- Elder George Kakeway

Introducing Lana Major

New Training Program Coordinator

Boozhoo! My name is Lana Major and I am Ojibway from Niisaachewan Anishinaabe Nation. I have a Bachelor of Management from the University of Lethbridge. My experience is working in the hospitality industry and working with First Nations. I am the Training Program Coordinator with Niiwin Wendaanimok. My role is to provide overall coordination and management of the projects. I provide on-going support to project staff to help ensure that the pre-employment skills development, skill training programs, employment placement and retention, and other holistic needs of the trainees are met. We have a great team of Community Navigators each with their own diverse skill set that make us a strong dynamic team. We are working together to recruit and provide training opportunities for our member First Nations. We are motivated, focused and enthusiastic about the opportunities for our people to be a part of this project and embark on a journey of growth, development and prosperity. We will support, encourage and empower. I

have much admiration and respect for our leadership and Elders for their dedication, guidance and support on this project. I am honoured to be working on this project and the vision of what it will become.

Meegwetch All My Relations

Translation Services Needed

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!



The Niiwin Wendaanimok in Action

Here are a few of the activities and meetings conducted since the beginning of August.



3

Board Meeting



4

Contracts Meeting



6

Technical Team Meeting



24-25

Limited Partnership Meeting



6-7

Chief's Meeting

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

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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!