



BiMOSE

TRIBAL COUNCIL



Message from Acting Executive Director

As the Acting Executive Director for Bimose Tribal Council, I am both honored and excited to share with you our Summer Newsletter. As we embark on this new journey together, I am eager to highlight the remarkable work taking place across our diverse departments.

A very exciting item in this newsletter is the naming story of our cultural learning space, Gichi-Mikinaak Lodge.

The HUB Department assisting in the conclusion of Wabauskang's Water Treatment Plant Feasibility Study. As well as facilitating the Wabaseemoong Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades, promising better environmental protection.

Jordan's Principle Department continues to honor Jordan River Anderson's legacy, focusing on Indigenous families and children. The Jordan's Principle Dept also welcomes Brad Anderson as the new Jordan's Principle Coordinator.

In the Education Partnerships Program, we empower our staff through "Cultivating Safe Spaces" training and celebrate culture and achievement of our youth with the "Honoring Our Graduates Pow-Wow."

The Policy Analyst Department is streamlining policy development with a new webpage, while the Finance Department welcomes Nishant Sigdel as the new Comptroller.

The Tech Services Department provides a great summary of the roles of each of their dedicated staff members, and how their roles serve your community.

And so much more!!

We trust you'll find these program updates as enjoyable to read as our department leads found them to be in writing. They reflect the dedication and enthusiasm of our teams as we persist in serving our communities and furthering our mission. Your continued support is deeply appreciated.

Miigwech,
Jon Kocis
Acting Executive Director
Bimose Tribal Council



Departmental Updates



David Brotherston
IT/Administrative Support, Bimose HUB

Following several months of planning and preparation, the HUB is pleased to announce that the Wabauskang Water Treatment Plant Feasibility Study has now concluded. The findings of the study were very favourable as it indicated that there were no major repairs or upgrades required. This speaks volumes to the dedication of the Wabauskang Operators and HUB Staff, who have worked diligently over the years to maintain the facility, which has now been in operation for over 20 years. Also, the HUB has reached a key milestone with the Wabaseemoong Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade as project work has begun this September. Following the conclusion of the upgrades, the treatment process of wastewater will be greatly enhanced, which will improve effluent quality and help to protect local water bodies.



Michelle Meekis
Supervisor, Gaagagegiizhigook Childcare Centre

This year's Early Years Community Pilot Project was held on June 15, 2023 at the Muse and the Museum from 5pm –7pm.

This year Gaagagegiizhigook Ganawenimaawasowin Wiigiwaam Childcare Centre and Gaagagekiizhik School's Kindergarten class participated in the exhibit by submitting artwork and drawings for viewing at the museum.

If you explored the exhibit, we hope you had time to reflect on the complexity of their thinking and the ways they have shown their interpretations and understandings of their surroundings and share what you found most interesting about the children's exhibits.

We hope you were able to visit both the museum and the art gallery to see the many amazing exhibits, and we hope to see you there again next year!

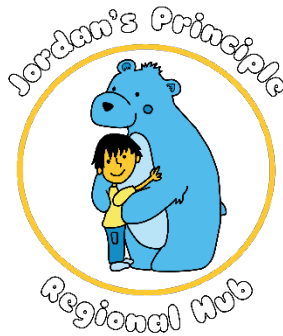


We welcomed our new Cook, Lisa Edlund, in July, and she is fitting in great with everyone here.

This year's Preschool Graduation was held on August 25th at 2:30 pm at the Childcare Centre.

Our talented Cook barbequed us up a great meal of burgers, salads, and fruit for everyone that attended, and we had our Elder and drummers guide us in a great send-off as we say goodbye to many of our preschoolers as they enter kindergarten. They will definitely be missed! But we will be welcoming a whole new group of Toddlers to our Centre, and they will keep us super busy!





Delane Kapera
Jordan's Principle Coordinator, Jordan's Principle Regional HUB

Boozhoo. Hello.

We wish to acknowledge the upcoming birthdate of Jordan-iban River Anderson October 22,1999! Happy Birthday Jordan-iban! May we continue to respect and uphold the Legacy of Jordan, while servicing Indigenous families in the children first perspective.

Jordan's Principle Regional Hub have been busy this summer with our community engagements and client supports. We are building community relationships and holding intake sessions in our communities. The applications are rolling in, and we are anticipating a busy fall season and winter.

This summer, we did various activities and collaborations:

- Canoe Safety with Kiizhik School
- Bear Witness Pow-Wow
- Bimose Tribal Council/ Nechee Friendship Centre "Honouring Our Graduates" Pow-Wow
- Children's Health Fair at Migisi Sahgaigan First Nation
- Kenora Chiefs Advisory Youth Beading Session
- 6 Jordan's Principle Information Sessions in: Asubpeeschoseewagong First Nation, Iskatewizaagegan#39 Independent First Nation, Niisaachewan First Nation, Waabigonii Zaaga'igan First Nation, Wabauskang First Nation, and Migisi Sahgaigan First Nation

There are some exciting ideas coming forward and we are excited to start implementing the ideas in our 2023-24 work plan. We look forward to sharing these ideas with our communities.

Gitchi-miigwech.





Cynthia Jourdain, Education Partnership Coordinator
Education Partnership Program

The Education Partnerships Program is delighted to bring you the latest updates and highlights from our recent events and initiatives aimed at fostering personal and communal growth, celebrating indigenous culture, and promoting collaborative endeavours.

Cultivating Safe Spaces Training: Empowering Transformation Through Decolonization

On June 7, 2023, at the Kenora Rotary Room, an inspiring gathering of over 25 Bimose Tribal Council staff members engaged in dynamic Professional Development Training. Facilitated by the esteemed Elaine Alec, the "Cultivating Safe Spaces" training provided participants within valuable insights into the practical aspects of decolonization. The transformative journey from uncertainty to empowerment was palpable, equipping attendees to effectively communicate and contribute towards the holistic transformation of systems.

Medicine Picking: In the Spirit of Giving

Under the guidance of Jason Parenteau, our team and members of Bimose's Anishinaabe Student Achievement (ASA) Team, including Pat Copenace, Ashlee Tom, Jasmine Darling, Cody Shaw, Tanis Fisher, and Dave Stepanik, engaged in traditional medicine sage picking and teachings. Every year before school, the team gathers medicines to gift to each of the Bimose communities with schools.

Language Feast Planning: Cultivating Cultural Resurgence

As we approach the month of September, our excitement grows for the first inaugural Language Feast, set to take place on September 16-17, 2023. The picturesque Wauzhushk Onigum Nation at the Roundhouse will serve as the backdrop for this unique event. To build upon the momentum of language learning, the feast holds profound significance. Rooted in Anishinaabe protocol, it emphasizes the lifting of sacred items, helpers, clans, and spirit names that guide us.



Saleem Memon
Senior Engineer, Technical Services Department

The Technical Services Department (TSD) leverage analytical and technical proficiencies to provide crucial support services to the affiliated First Nation communities as well as Bimose Tribal Council. The key responsibilities of the Technical Services Department team are to provide advice on technical matters, which include assessing challenges faced by the member communities, investigating and gathering pertinent information to solve challenges, and providing solutions.

The Technical Service Department team comprises staff with distinct expertise who are responsible for the following activities:

- The Engineering staff in the TSD provide technical support in the procurement of funds for First Nation Communities involving residential construction, utility servicing, water & wastewater capital works, infrastructure, and commercial buildings. In addition to the above, engineering staff provide detailed technical support, which involve the general review of technical documents, project team correspondence, budget analysis, physical progress inspections, reporting assistance, as well as the management of prime consultants.
- The Fire Prevention Officer in the TSD provides advisement on measures to reduce the likelihood of fire-related incidents happening in the First Nation Communities. Where reasonable, prevention measures are taken in preference to protective measures like mitigation, reducing the severity of any incidents that occur.

Indigenous Service Canada (ISC) has retained the National Indigenous Fire Safety Council (NIFSC) to work on a firefighting pilot project for BTC-affiliated FN communities. One of the project's key deliverables is to assist First Nation Communities with developing a fire and safety assessment and Action Plan.

NIFSC has completed the Fire and Life Safety Assessment for all First Nation Communities and the project is ongoing. TSD will be representing our member communities and Bimose Tribal Council at the upcoming Indigenous Public Safety Conference on September 14-15, as well as completing the fire and life educator training.

- The Emergency Management Coordinator in the TSD advises on preparing plans and procedures for responding to natural disasters and other emergencies. In coordination with ISC officials, and members of First Nation Communities, the emergency management coordinator also helps lead the response during and after emergencies.

Our EMC is working on action plans from the Community Wildfire Protection Plans that were completed earlier this year. With the help of communities, we hope to implement the Fire Smart principles recommended to mitigate forest fire risk.

- The Waste Management Coordinator in the TSD provides professional advice to the First Nation Communities on organizing and managing waste disposal, collection, and recycling facilities. The Waste Management Coordinator reviews First Nation's current waste handling, storage, and disposal policies for hazardous and non-hazardous waste to ensure it complies with applicable regulations.

The Waste Management Coordinator position is currently vacant.



Meet the Technical Services Team! From left to right: Dave Crow (Fire Prevention Officer), Elizabeth Blyth (Emergency Management Coordinator), Saleem Memon (Senior Engineer), Kazu Laffin (Engineer in Training) and Dinesh Adhikari (Engineer in Training).

Beverly Williamson **Policy Analyst**

Boozhoo, I hope everyone enjoyed summer with family and friends and what our area has to offer! Since my last update, I have continued reviewing and adding comments to draft policies and creating policies and procedures relating to Bimose Tribal Council and Kiizhik School.

I am pleased with my progress to create an additional webpage for the Board of Directors and Managers to review draft policies and procedures. We have the technology—let’s use it! Our Board of Directors and Bimose Management will find this much more useful in reviewing, editing draft policies and turning them into approved policies. As a result, policies and procedures will be implemented efficiently.

I have been appointed to organize our newest addition: Gichi Mikinaak Lodge. Lodge planning and implementation relating to our children and youth to learn land-based activities and gaining cultural knowledge will be the main highlight of this Lodge. Chief Bill Petiquan and Roy Napish conducted traditional protocol and naming ceremony. I’m pleased to have witnessed this joyous event!

I am working with the Jordan’s Principle Regional Hub by assisting to create and develop a framework, strategic plan, policies and procedures. These plans would benefit children first and to show those who we serve, respect and positive support.

I am supervising Bimose’s Social Media Coordinator and she is actively working and collaborating with our Bimose programs and entities with photography work, website management and social media pages.

I always look forward to working with our Bimose team and communities to help progress some of our objectives and willing to work as a positive contributor to the Bimose team.

- Projects, Collaborations and Meetings:
- Indigenous History and Heritage Gathering
- Bimose Tribal Council/ Nechee Friendship Centre Pow-Wow “Honour our Graduates”
- Monthly Managers Meetings
- Cultural Day with Social Media Coordinator
- ONWA Engagement Session
- Weekly Social Media meetings
- Monthly Lodge Meetings
- Quarterly Board Meetings

Mya Horley
Social Media Coordinator

Here are some fun statistics and milestones achieved during the Summer. From June 1 to September 30, 2023, we have seen the following Facebook results:

- Across all channels, we have gained 211 Total Followers since June 1, 2023; Bimose received 132 new followers (an improvement of 11%)!
- Total Engagement across all 4 Facebook channels was 43,960 actions taken!
- 181 unique social media posts created and shared on one or more of the following Facebook channels: Bimose Tribal Council, Kiizhik Elementary School, Bimose Community High School, and GGW Childcare.
- Page Views refers to the number of times our Facebook Page was visited due to someone seeing a post of ours, and being interested enough to click our Profile Page to see more! We received a total of 14,260 Total Page Views, 6,916 of which were from Bimose's Facebook. That's a 14% increase from Bimose's Page Views last period! GGW Childcare maintained Steady growth and Page Views; where Kiizhik and Bimose Community High School decreased, as expected, because the schools were on Summer Vacation.
- In May new Job Ads templates were created.
- 19 unique Job Ads were created, and those Ads received a Total Reach of 217,970 unique people and a total of 16,154 actions taken, such as likes, comments, shares, clicks to the website, and clicks on social media. Although the Total Reach of these Job Ads is 30% less than the Total Reach from last period's 27 jobs Ads, the Summer Job Ads received 49% more engagement! Typically, with less posts, you could expect less Engagement. Engagement being up is an indicator that the new Job Ads implemented in May and demographic targeting are performing well and people are interested in learning more about Bimose Careers.



Introducing Gichi-Mikinaak Lodge

On behalf of the Board of Directors and our member First Nations, Bimose Tribal Council is excited to announce that we have purchased the tourist camp formerly known as Eagle Lake Sportsmen's Lodge.

The importance of the new entity, as established by our Elders, is setting the foundation for a culturally safe space. On July 6, 2023, Elder Roy Napish and Chief Bill Petiquan provided traditional protocol and a naming ceremony.

Bimose Tribal Council's newest entity is now formally known as Gichi-Mikinaak Lodge. In English, Gichi-Mikinaak translates to Great Turtle. Chief Bill Petiquan shared that he saw a big turtle lying in the boundaries of the Lodge - the entire shell covered the boundaries. The turtle said it would look after everyone that visits.

The strength of Bimose Tribal Council's relationship with our children, youth, families and communities will be reflected with the goals of; understanding our ways of knowing, our ceremonies and our land-based activities.



Bimose Tribal Council wishes to express that we are in the early stages of Gichi-Mikinaak Lodge planning and development. As a result, we are closing for the time being. Bimose Tribal Council wants to be certain that when you visit Gichi-Mikinaak Lodge, that your experience is marvelous.

Bimose Tribal Council sincerely appreciates the patience of our member First Nations and Stakeholders. It will allow us time to build a safe space and demonstrate our unwavering commitment to working together. Our goal is to lay a strong foundation for the well-being of our children, youth, families and communities. We are grateful for the many opportunities that this privilege has provided to us and will continue to provide to us for many years.

Gichi-Miigwech,
 Fabian Blackhawk, Board Chair
 & Jon Kocis, Acting Executive Director



Bimose Staff Features



Hello and good day from the Finance Team. I am Nishant Sigdel, and I started my position as Comptroller for Bimose Tribal Council on July 17, 2023 – three days after my birthday.

I am excited not just to be a part of Bimose but to start a new chapter of my life in Kenora. I came to Canada from Nepal in 2017 and survived six winters in Winnipeg. I came to Canada as a student, not knowing what lies in front of me. I graduated with an Accounting Certificate in 2019 and worked in an accounting firm before joining the Bimose Tribal Council.

So far, life in Canada has been amazing, and I cannot ask for anything more. Moving from Winnipeg after almost seven years was a bit of a challenge, but there was no doubt in my mind to choose Kenora as my next home. A landscape that reminded me of Kathmandu (the city where I am from), with its beautiful lakes, and I get lots of time that I can spend with my lovely wife and much more to come. Besides work, I love watching football (not an American football, but the real one) ⚽, taking care of my plants, going on long drives, and doing nothing.

I am glad to be a part of Bimose and to work with the amazing team. I look forward to sharing what I have learned and experienced working in an accounting firm over the last couple of years.

Thank you very much.

Nishant Sigdel
Comptroller
nsigdel@bimose.ca
(807) 468-5551 x 223



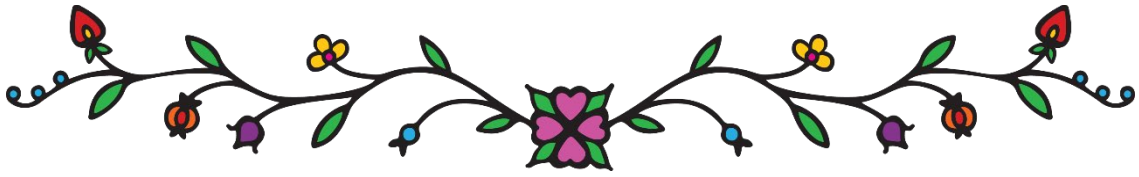
Boozhoo – Hello!

My name is Brad Anderson. I am the newest member of the Jordan's Principle Hub team and will be representing Bimose Tribal Council as a Jordan's Principle Coordinator.

I was born and raised in the Red Lake/Ear Falls area and am a proud member of the Wabauskang community. I went to the University of Western Ontario, receiving an Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy. In my free time, I enjoy camping with my family, throwing darts in the Legion Fun League, and travelling.

I am extremely excited about the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our children and our communities as a whole. I look forward to meeting everyone here at Bimose; please feel free to say hello anytime!

Brad Anderson
Jordan's Principle Coordinator
banderson@bimose.ca
(807) 546-0009



We're Hiring!

WE'RE HIRING

Available Roles

- Technical Services Inspector
- Solid Waste Coordinator
- Language Teacher
- Culture and Language Resource
- School Custodian (Contract)
- Guidance Counsellor
- School Principal
- Special Education Teacher
- Education Assistant

APPLY NOW!

Bimose Tribal Council is growing and we're looking to hire for a number of roles within Technical Services and Education.

Explore BTC's career opportunities by visiting bimose.ca/careers. You can apply by email at careers@bimose.ca or by our handy online form.



BIMOSE
TRIBAL COUNCIL



598 Lakeview Drive, Kenora, ON P9N 3P7
E: reception@bimose.ca | T: (807) 468 5551 | F: (807) 468 3908

Anishinaabe Floral Set art from Neebinnaukzhik Southall, Neebin Studios.

Copyright (C) 2023 Bimose Tribal Council. All rights reserved.