



BIMOSE
TRIBAL COUNCIL



Message from Our Executive Director

Boozhoo,

I am thrilled to introduce the latest edition of our newsletter, highlighting our Jordan's Principle Regional Hub, the Anishinaabe Student Achievement (ASA) Program, Bimose HUB, Technical Services, Gaagagegiizhigook Childcare Centre and Kiizhik Education Corporation. As the Executive Director, I am proud to lead a team that is dedicated to improving the lives of Indigenous children, youth and members across Bimose.

In this edition, you will find a wealth of information on various programs and services aimed at enhancing the educational opportunities for Indigenous children, including the Jordan's Principle Regional Hub. This vital initiative ensures that First Nations children receive the supports they need, regardless of their geographic location, health or socioeconomic status.

Our HUB and Technical Services departments provides our communities with the resources and support they need to make informed decisions about infrastructure projects and community development initiatives. We recognize the importance of clean water in our communities and our teams are committed to providing safe and reliable water services to those we serve.

We are also excited to share updates from Gaagagegiizhigook Childcare Centre and Kiizhik Education Corporation, which aim to provide a safe and nurturing environment for our children to learn and grow.

We recognize that Indigenous children face many unique challenges and we remain committed to addressing these issues through collaborative efforts and community engagement. We are dedicated to ensuring that Indigenous children have access to the resources, support, and opportunities they need to thrive.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our staff, partners and our member nations for their unwavering commitment to our mission. Together, we can create positive change and build a brighter future for our member communities across Bimose.

Miigwech,

James Danielson
Executive Director
Bimose Tribal Council



Departmental Updates



David Brotherston
IT/Administrative Support, Bimose HUB

The Bimose HUB has reached a number of key milestones that have helped to improve operations and support at our community Water Treatment Facilities. A great deal of planning has gone into the execution of our CMMS (Computerized Maintenance Management System) Program and we are now live with Shoal Lake 40 and Washagamis Bay.

This will assist the local operators with all pertinent maintenance tasks within their facilities. In conjunction with the CMMS program, the HUB has issued dedicated tablets to each facility for interacting with the CMMS and recording all water quality statistics via Microsoft Excel and OneDrive.

This will help to improve collaboration between the HUB Operators, local Environmental Health Officers, and the community operators. In addition to the new cloud-based environment, the HUB has provided advisory services for two WTP Feasibility Studies at Niisaachewan and Wabauskang, as well as a Wastewater Treatment Upgrade Project at Wabaseemoong.





Michelle Meekis
Supervisor, Gaagagegiizhigook Childcare Centre

- Sept 5 - Closed for Labour Day
- Sept 16 - Closed for Professional Development
- Sept 29 - Participated in Kiizhik's Every Child Matters Walk
- Oct 10 - Closed for Giving Thanks long-weekend
- Oct 27 - Fall Feast with drumming, teachings from Elders, and a Pumpkin Photoshoot area for families
- Dec 16 - Provided gifts for all the children and food baskets, containing a turkey, for families to take home
- Dec 19 - Jan 3 - Closed for Winter Break
- Jan 3 - Reopened the Centre after Winter Break
- Jan 4 - We celebrated the first annual Ribbon Skirt Day and all staff received new Ribbon Skirts made by Danielle Kahgeeway.
- Jan 27 - Family Literacy Day and PJ Day – GGW hosted a Breakfast and Books from 8am-9:30am with GGW children and their families at the Childcare Centre.
- Feb 14 - Family Fun Day Meal kits packed and distributed to parents/caregivers
- Feb 20 - Family Day Closure
- Mar 1 - Launched Community Pantry and Fridge at the Childcare Centre, where parents/caregivers can pick up some essential meal items & snacks to take home. The food items are FREE for all those whose children attend GGW.

Future Planning:

- CWELCC: Additional Reduction to Parent Fees will give parents an overall reduction of 52.75% in fees and result in an average fee of \$22/day for eligible children in child care programs enrolled in the CWELCC system.
- The Early Years Community Pilot Project will be returning this June 2023 - Muse Museum Display Date TBA





Kaz Laffin

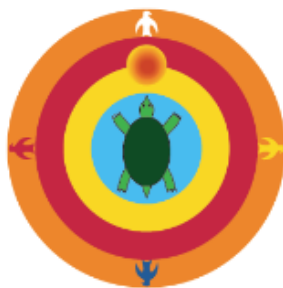
EIT, Technical Services Officer

Manager: Saleem Memon, Senior Engineer

The Technical Department here at Bimose continues to provide support in the ongoing development of our member First Nation communities. Subsequently, Technical Services is building capacity in critical areas which we feel are fundamental in the success of our First Nations. These areas include major capital, housing, infrastructure, water & wastewater treatment, solid waste management, emergency management, & fire protection. With the expansion of our technical team, most notably in solid waste management, civil technologists, & technicians, Bimose can provide more comprehensive support to our member First Nations.

Sustainable, long term growth for our First Nation communities has always been a top priority within our department. At present, we are challenged with housing shortages, land availability, accessibility to clean drinking water, environmental health & safety concerns, and equitable access to programs & services. In overcoming these challenges, there has been meaningful progress in our work with First Nation communities, some of which include: Iskatewizaagegan No.39's water distribution upgrades; wastewater treatment feasibility studies for Niisaachewan & Shoal Lake No.40; Wabigoon Lake's water treatment & distribution upgrades; Wabaseemoong's wastewater treatment upgrades; 100-lot subdivision feasibility study for Wabaseemoong; Wabigoon Lake's Health Centre addition; feasibility studies for Jordan's Principle Service buildings for Iskatewizaagegan No.39, Wabaseemoong, and Shoal lake No.40; design of a new Child Care Centre for Shoal Lake No.40.

Additionally, we have received the approval for housing funds for Eagle Lake, Grassy Narrows, and Wabasukang First Nations. Furthermore, ISC has commissioned National Indigenous Fire Safety Council (NIFSC) to assist with developing a fire and life safety assessment and action plan for the affiliated First Nation communities. Presently, the assessment of home safety, community fire safety, wildland fire safety, and fire department assessments is in progress.



Eleanor Skead

Director of Education, Kiizhik Education Corporation

Culture and Language

- Land Based Camp - Wiikweyang (Eagle Lake)
- Attended ASA's Wild Game and Fish Processing activities at the Discovery Centre
- Wilfred Buck – "The Star Guy"
- Mini Fall Harvest at Gaagagekiizhik School - focus was
- Anishinaabemowin and traditional/cultural teachings;
- Winter Break Solstice Feast;
- Ribbon Skirt Day – January 4th

- Leather Belt Making;
- Ron Mandamin – Creation Story
- Ruth and Sally Skead – Stories of Anishinaabe Day to Day Survival – Messages of Respect and Responsibility;
- Bert Landon – Hand Drumming and Veteran Song – Teaching student to listen, observe and sing the veterans song;
- KCA Cultural Winter Days – Dog Sled Adventures

Physical Activity and Sports

- Kenora SportsPlex every Wednesday from 3:30 pm to 5 pm for Grades 3- 8;
- Skating swimming lesson – Kenora Recreation Centre
- Triple Play – lending us 30 pairs of skates and paying for the sharpening

Academics

- Focus on Reading – Guided Reading – Small group Instruction –reading to each other or together as group - support students to improve reading comprehension, decoding and fluency! The focus has on reading seen steady improvements.
- Remembrance Day Celebrations and learning about the contributions made Indigenous veterans;
- Every Child Matters walk to Cecelia Jeffery Residential School site; students spend the day learning, remembering, and then discussing what truth and reconciliation means.

School Operations

- New Staff: Eleanor Skead Education Director/Acting Principal, Heather Mutch Vice Principal, Wanda McQuabbie Anishinaabemowin Teacher, JoJo Holiday, SubTeacher/Mental Health Supports, Brenda Cameron, Mental Health, Sierra Swain-Keyash , Administrative Assistant, Buddini Namesha, Classroom Assistant;
- Staff Professional Development was dedicated to student assessment and evaluation guided by the Growing Success document;
- Optometry Clinic – we collaborated with Kenora Optometry Clinic to bring vision screening to our students;
- Parent Teacher night was well attended! Feb 15th;
- Kenora Chiefs Advisory Youth and Family Wellness Camp – Christmas Party;



Anishinaabe Student Achievement

In December 2022 ASA was proud to host the official Film Screening of Bimose's two short films: Processing Manoomin and The Manoomin Story, which highlighted how wild rice was traditionally processed.

Missed the Screening? Watch the videos here:

- [The Manoomin Story](#)
- [Processing Manoomin](#)



Samantha Cameron

Jordan's Principle Navigator, Jordan's Principle Regional HUB

Jordan principle team has been busy in the communities working one on one with individual and family applications, while engaging in community partnerships.

The team partner up with Kiizhik Education and ASA Education with hosting the first Fall Harvest at the new Landbased Education Camp. The Harvest was a success in

delivering traditional teachings and A full undress of a moose. Students and staff expressed gratitude and amazement of the whole experience.

October 22nd Bimose Tribal Council Jordan's Principle Regional Hub acknowledged Jordan's River Anderson 23rd birthday, by celebrating his birthday, honouring him through social media.

(media release photo of Jordan and mother)

With many collaborations and partnerships with Bimose Tribal Council and member communities organizations, we like to acknowledge the dedication of all programs.

- Christmas gifts for GGW children
- Community Christmas Hampers
- Professional training with BTC
- ASA - First Aid Training
- Women's Leadership Summit
- Sponsorship of community workers training

We are please and to release the department LOGO.



Sneak Peek at the New Jordan's Principle Regional Hub Logo

Logo Contest Results

The Logo Contest for the Jordan's Principle Program, hosted on Bimose's Facebook page, received a respectable response from participants. After stringent rounds of evaluation, owing to the highly competitive and qualitative responses, the following names are declared as the winners:

1. Cassandra Blair - Apple iPad and Beats solo headphones
2. Jason Nyberg - \$250 VISA gift card
3. Trevor Jack - \$150 VISA gift card

All Winners have been contacted. If there are any questions, please contact the Jordan's Principle team at (807) 468-5551 or jordans.principle@bimose.ca.

Sneak Peek at the New Logo

We are thrilled to announce to you that this will be the new logo representing Bimose Tribal Council's Jordan's Principle Regional Hub. We believe this logo best portrays and honours "the Cree boy who taught us the way", Omashkiigoo-gwiiwizens ekinoogewed. Jordan River Anderson memory is a legacy that will live on forever to service all first nation children for generations to come.



Bimose Staff Features



Boozhoo, Aaniin! My name is Beverly Williamson and I started my position as Policy Analyst for Bimose Tribal Council on October 31, 2022—right on time for Halloween!

Makaade kwan gwan kwe n'digo, Name ndodem, Iskatewizaagegan #39 ndoonjii. I thoroughly enjoy writing, research and thinking—books and reading are part of my life! In my past experience, I have written many reports, proposals, and other documents for organizations within our region.

Bimose Tribal Council welcomed me within their management team with many work tasks such as amending or drafting internal policies, strategic planning projects and supervising the Social Media Coordinator with her work. My critical thinking skills allows me to determine strengths and weaknesses, make recommendations that will benefit and promote effective ways to implement policies and outcomes within Bimose programs and entities.

I look forward to planning and making policy within Bimose Tribal Council and entities.

Gitchi-miigwech,

Beverly Williamson
Policy Analyst
bwilliamson@bimose.ca
(807) 468-5551 x 237



My name is Janalee Jodouin and I have recently accepted the position of Economic Development Advisor with Bimose Tribal Council. I hail from Red Lake Ontario, born and raised.

My formal education is in Business, Human Resources, and Accounting. Most recently, I was employed in banking as a Small Business Advisor collaborating with businesses and organizations on a variety of projects from the conception and building stage to succession planning. I have several years of experience in business development and expansion as well as non-profit advancement with multi-level government systems and funding opportunities.

I look forward to continued successes and progression working in partnership with Bimose Nations.

Miigwech,

Janalee Jodouin
Economic Development Advisor
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Anishinaabe Floral Set art from Neebinnaukzhik Southall, Neebin Studios

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