



GICHI-MIKINAAK LODGE STATEMENT

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 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