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Bimose Tribal Council Summer 2022 | Quarterly Newsletter | Volume 1

BIMOSE TRIBAL COUNCIL

Message from Our Executive Director

I take this opportunity as a introduction to our new Quarterly Newsletter of the Bimose Tribal Council. The Newsletter highlights the education department, Kiizhik Education, technical services activities, and developments at Bimose. It also brings into focus the progress made by Bimose in our Fire Prevention Pilot Project, Secured Status Cards Pilot Project with ISC, MOU with KDSB, and our new Jordon's Principle Regional Hub activities.

I would welcome your comments and suggestions in respect of our endeavors and expect your continued support in strengthening our Anishinaabe way and our goal is to build and better, stronger, healthier life for the Anishinaabeg.

James Danielson
Executive Director
Bimose Tribal Council

Past Events

Honouring Our Graduates | Indigenous Peoples Day Pow-Wow

On Indigenous Peoples Day, June 21, we invited the public to join Bimose Tribal Council under the Whitecap Pavilion to a Pow-Wow honouring our graduates. The event was open to the public and free to attend. This all-day event was enjoyed by many, receiving praise for the complimentary fish fry dinner, stunning regalia, and talented dancers.

A Walk in the Wilderness

At the start of June, Gaagagegiizhigook Childcare Centre (GGW Childcare Centre) participated in 'A Walk in the Wilderness' Children's Art Exhibit, a fun and creative Early Years Community Project, with 50 other childcare centers and kindergarten classes. The amount of art that the children created and the turnout of guests was incredible. It was fantastic to see lots in attendance to support the kids. We were proud to show the children's creations of moccasin paper crafts, dolls in takinagans, photographs and paintings.

Language Symposium

June 2 & 3 Gaagagekiizhik Elementary and Bimose Commuity High School staff went to Winnipeg to attend the MALS Ki kiikidowininaand Maamawi'opiwin, Our Language Our Identity Languages Symposium. The team was excited tp learn and leave with new ideas of how to celebrate and revitalize Anishinaabemowin into the day to day teachings in the classrooms.

Bimose Adds Jordan's Principle

What is Jordan's Principle?

Jordan's Principle is a child-first principle and legal obligation, which means it has no end date. Jordan's Principle will always be there to assist all First Nation children *living on and off* First Nation communities. This principle has become a legacy of Jordan River Anderson, a child from Norway House Cree Nation in Northern Manitoba. Jordan Anderson was born with a complex genetic disorder, when the time came for Jordan to be transferred to a specialize-home, he was subjected to a jurisdictional dispute between the Province of Manitoba and the Federal Government. They could not agree on which government was financially responsible for his care and as a result Jordan never return home and passed away at the age of five in the care of the medical staff at the Children's Hospital in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

How Bimose Tribal Council Plans to Help Communities

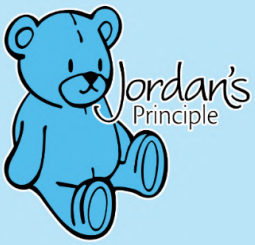
Bimose Tribal Council (BTC) **Jordan's Principle Regional Hub** was created to serve as an advisory group and offer supportive services, as requested of regional Chiefs and Councillors.

Jordan's Principle Regional Hub is a centralized service to enhance BTC's community partnerships, networking, and delivery of services and programs. Jordan's Principle Coordinators will act as authorized representatives, assist in preparing and submitting requests to Jordan's Principle, and access approved products, services and supports. Jordan's Principle Coordinators can also support requestors to prepare and submit an appeal if they disagree with the decision made by Indigenous Services Canada. In addition to BTC Jordan's Principle Regional Hub, Coordinators will facilitate community workers' training and workshops to assist their communities and families.

What Services Are Covered with Jordan's Principle?

Services are provided on the basis of substantive equality. Services covered include:

- Medical Health Service
- Medical Supplies and Equipment
- Long-term Care for Children with Specialized needs
- Education Support & Services
- Assessment and Screening test
- Professional Assessments & Services
- Services for Children in Care
- Summer Service Programs
- Family Coaching
- Cultural Support & Service
- Land-based Education & Services
- Training & Support Service
- Technical or Electronic aids
- Respite care
- Reimbursement cost



Departmental Updates

Gaagagegiizhigook
Childcare Centre

Michelle Meekis
Supervisor, Gaagagegiizhigook Childcare Centre

GGW Childcare hosted a Spring Feast on May 27 where Elder Phyllis Shaugabay conducted the ceremony. We welcomed parents and guardians to attend and staff were excited to learn and bring their traditional bundles, if they had them.

Our children also participated in the June 9-11 *'A Walk in the Wilderness'* Children's Art Exhibit at The MUSE Lake of the Woods Museum. This Early Years Community Project saw over 50 childcare centres and Kindergarten classes include their art to be showcased. The art submissions expanded over the two buildings, both the museum and the Douglas Family Centre.

GGW Childcare's featured art received lots of praise from parents and visitors, and more importantly, engagement from the youngsters. The ability to be able to touch and feel the moccasin art and baby takinagans was exciting to the little ones. When the children asked questions, our GGW team was ready to educate on Anishinaabe culture and traditions.

While the community was getting to know more about GGW Childcare and Indigenous culture, our staff have also been dedicated to their professional development and expanding their understandings of culture

KiizHiK
EDUCATION
CORPORATION

Wendy McPherson
Principal, Gaagagekiizhik Elementary School & Bimose Community High School

The Gaagagekiizhik and Bimose Community High School (Kiizhik) team went to Winnipeg in June to attend the MALS Language Symposium. This two-day conference gathered together Elders, Knowledge Keepers and educators to learn from one another how to integrate more language immersion into their respective schools. At the conference, we discovered that our team at Kiizhik are trailblazers in many ways. Where other schools are starting their language immersion, we were honoured to learn that our Elders, Languages Keepers, and educators currently within our team have been using many of the suggested methods discussed during the conference.

Kiizhik recently had its Graduation Celebration & Pow-Wow, the first in-person graduation since the pandemic. Families, friends, Elders, students, and community members gathered to celebrate our graduating scholars. The event was a great success, with feedback from attendees saying that the graduation was so

and traditions. For example, the team is scheduled for in-person training for language and cultural teachings. We also were honoured to have Allan McLay join us on June 20 for a Drum Making Workshop.

In other news, GGW was excited to see that Ontario and Canada signed the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) Agreement that will lower fees for parents and provide more accessible and high-quality childcare for Ontario families. Ontario's plan will deliver an average of $10 per day of childcare by September 2025. Child care operators have the choice to participate in this system.

personalized and captured the Anishinaabe traditions. Some had never experienced this type of celebration before, and their hearts were full.

Our teachers are being rewarded with a much-deserved summer break. The team is thrilled to bring even bigger and better things into the 2022/23 academic year.

ANISHINAABE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Fawn Wapioke
Gagiikimaawasowi, Anishinaabe Student Achievement

The Anishinaabemodaa Language Bowl was held on May 25th, 2022 at Seven Generations Education Institute. The language bowl has been a great opportunity to promote Anishinaabemowin and showcase the student's skills. It was attended by five teams from four Bimose affiliated schools. Teams rotated between stations with different topics (Ex: Animals, Ceremony terms, Weather, Everyday Items) and were moderated by Anishinaabemowin speakers. Teams collected points as they rotated, with the winning team having the most correct answers/points. This year, our winning team was Migisi Sahgaigan School (Eagle Lake). They are the former champions and continue their reign! Congratulations to Migisi Sahgaigan on representing their school, community and our beautiful language!

The Bimose staff have also been receiving weekly language classes with instructors Roger Roulette and Brian Cochrane. We have been working with Roulette's workbook "Gidinwewin" (Your Language).

The Koko Jones Show, an Anishinaabemowin series created by Say It First, partnered with Bimose to showcase local speakers and dialect. They visited Niisaachewan and Shoal Lake #40 communities to record our own local Anishinaabemowin dialect. The show is expected to be available by the winter.

This past week, we hosted our first ever Anishinabemowin Language Camp at Minaki Yurts. Language Speakers and Language Learners came together for three days to cover topics such as intergenerational language effects, land-based activities, language teachings and entertainment nights. The goal of this first session is to set direction on a best practices model which will be used in Bimose schools, and to host a larger language conference in the future.

BIMOSE HUB

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.

Gaagagegiizhigook Childcare Centre

Michelle Meekis
Supervisor, Gaagagegiizhigook Childcare Centre

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ANISHINAABEMODAA ANISHINAABEMOWIN

Fawn Wapioke
Gagiikimaawasowi, Anishinaabe Student Achievement

The Anishinaabe Student Achievement (ASA) schools have been busy wrapping up another school year. While working through the added challenge of the pandemic, our Education Directors, Principals and staff have been able to implement student recovery plans and identify effective programs. They have also provided an array of resources and services to their students. Our Leads continue to provide resources as requested.

The ASA committee has continued to meet regularly and will be meeting again in late summer.

Through a partnership with York University, Schulich School of Business, the Schulich Mini-MBA: Essentials of Management Program was completed by central staff and education directors.

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Central staff participated in a series of cultural-based Lunch and Learn sessions such as Ribbon Skirt Making and Anishinaabemowin classes.

We had a couple new staff joining us; In April, Erica Fisher-Mandamin joined the education team as the Education Partnership Administrative Assistant. Natasha Tom joins the team for the summer as she fulfills requirements towards her Master's in Organizational Leadership from Adler University in Chicago.

With the lifting of gathering restrictions, 24 ASA graduates were recognized at the Honoring our High School Graduates Powwow held at the White Cap Pavillion. During the powwow, The ASA team would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff and volunteers who help to ensure the event was successful and we look forward to hosting it again next year.

In May, the ASA team was invited to observe the Anishinaabemowin Immersion Camp that took place outside of Winnipeg. Staff had the opportunity to meet with participants and instructors. This experience will be used as a guiding point for our own Anishinaabemowin Camp.

Bimose and KDSB Partnering Up to Offer More Accessibility to Affordable Housing

Having safe and affordable housing is an essential right for all families and individuals. We recognize that homelessness and lack of access to housing is a serious issue for our communities and is a direct cause of poor health, premature deaths, and missed economic opportunities in our communities. Understanding this, we are excited to announce that Bimose Tribal Council (BTC) and Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) have decided to work together on a joint initiative.

Unified and working together, we can better support families, elders, youth and children to access support programs and services, such as housing, social services, child care and education. Together, both organizations are driven to ensure adequate housing for all families and individuals in our communities, and we plan to do this together by:

- **Infrastructure:** Explore options to create, develop and improve infrastructure, so that is an adequate amount of housing.
- **Finances:** Explore options to finance infrastructure efforts.
- **Funding:** Explore options with partners to leverage and secure funding for the infrastructure efforts.
- **Communication:** Identify means and improve communication between Bimose Tribal Council and the Kenora District Services Board to streamline and expedite progress.
- **Participation:** Strategies to encourage engagement from First Nations, Kenora District Services Board, and all individuals involved.

BTC is thrilled to continue building our relationship with the KDSB team. We look forward to fostering a positive and long-term relationship to work collaboratively and collegially to create supports and programs that better reflect the realities and cultural needs of the communities our organizations serve.

Request More Info

Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS) Facilitation Program

Bimose Tribal Council (BTC) is collaborating with Indigenous Services Canada to better assist individuals wishing to apply for, renew or replace their Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS). As part of the program, BTC can assist with completing and submitting applications, certifying the required documentation and the requisite photographs, **eliminating the need for a guarantor.**

This service is offered, free of charge, to all persons already registered under the Indian Act **on an appointment basis only.**

Contact Us

For more information or to make an appointment, please contact us at:

Membership Clerk
membership@bimose.ca
(807) 468-5551 Ext. 226

Or Visit Indigenous Service Canada's Get, renew or replace a status card.

Request An Appointment

Introducing a New Pilot Program to Increase Fire Safety & Prevention

Indigenous communities across Canada are experiencing an unacceptable number of fire-related injuries and deaths. Gaps in fire protection mean On-Reserve communities are not offered the same level of protection as others. The lack of fire service standards in Indigenous communities impacts fire services and community protection.

The National Indigenous Fire Safety Council (NIFSC) was created to support Indigenous communities to build capacity to address fire and life safety needs. By taking a national-level approach to fire and life safety, NIFSC is addressing the gap in national fire protection standards collaboratively, on a national scale with the support of its delivery arm, the Indigenous Fire Marshal Service (IFMS). NIFSC will, through the delivery of culturally relevant fire and life safety programs, support Indigenous communities to become healthier and safer.

In collaboration with Indigenous Services Canada, Ontario Region and Bimose Tribal Council, we are undertaking a pilot project in Ontario to enhance firefighting capacity to ensure the safety of public and property in all Bimose Tribal Council affiliated First Nation Communities. This pilot will result in a framework that can be replicated in other communities across Ontario regarding wildland fire risk, the safety of homes in the communities, fire department preparedness, and community fire safety preparedness. The initial assessments can be done virtually with an in-person visit to follow.

The delivery arm of NIFSC, the IFMS would attend an in-person community consultation to assist with developing a fire and life safety assessment and action plan. This would be achieved through a multi-pronged approach by completing assessments for home safety, community fire safety, wildland fire safety and a fire department assessment. In doing so, we will be able to collaboratively determine opportunities for improvement and provide recommendations to address the relevant gaps in fire and life safety. These recommendations will be presented to Bimose Tribal Council and Indigenous Services Canada for consideration and implementation.

We look forward to working with your community in this shared goal to increase community capacity and to reduce fire risk for community members.

See Formal Letter

BIMOSE TRIBAL COUNCIL

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