



Grandmother Josephine Mandamin (left) – Water Walker and advocate with Grand Council Chief Glen Hare in Aamjiwnaang June 2017.

– Photo by Laura Barrios

Anishinabek Nation mourns the passing of Grandmother Josephine Mandamin

ANISHINABEK NATION HEAD OFFICE (February 22, 2019) — The Anishinabek Nation mourns the passing of our Grandmother, our Water Commissioner, our kind and gentle Water Protector, Biidaasige – Josephine Mandamin.

“It is a very sad day. We have lost a great advocate, teacher, and role model. She will be so deeply missed by all and will be fondly remembered for all of what she did to protect the water. Our prayers are with Josephine as she begins her journey home into the Spirit World and back to her ancestors,” expressed Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Glen Hare. “Our thoughts of comfort are with Josephine’s family and community as they prepare for her journey.”

Josephine Mandamin, originally from Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, and affectionately called Grandmother Water

Walker or Grandmother Josephine, dedicated her life to protecting the water and giving it a voice. She made it her life’s mission to raise consciousness about the fragility of water and emphasize that water is precious, sacred, and one of the basic elements required for all life to exist. Water is life.

“Through all of the years of Josephine’s determination and dedication to raise awareness through her legendary Great Lakes Water Walks, it is my hope that the world hears her message – that water is life!” stated Grand Council Chief Hare. “Our world is a better place because of Josephine’s efforts and those of us who will continue her work to protect our life-giving Nibi, not only to honour her legacy, but to ensure water, the world over, is protected. What a remarkable Anishinaabkwe we have had the absolute pleasure of knowing and learning from.”

Grandmother Josephine founded Mother Earth Water Walks – an initiative that brings awareness to the risks and threats to the health and sustainability of our waterways. Through that initiative, she has walked the shorelines of the five Great Lakes as well as in all four directions of Turtle Island – bringing water from all oceans together. She has walked the equivalent of half of the earth’s circumference while building awareness about pollution, laws, fracking, and the selling of water.

As part of her advocacy role, she conducted community ceremonies where she would unite communities with water and empower them to start their own water walks to bring awareness to local lakes and watersheds. Grandmother Josephine has touched the lives of many and inspired a whole new generation of water walkers and

warriors.

In her capacity as the Chief Commissioner of the Anishinabek Nation Women’s Water Commission, she was a predominant contributor and leader of the Great Lakes Guardians’ Council, established under the Great Lakes Protection Act. She was also previously on the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada in 2006.

She was also honoured with a Anishinabek Nation Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012 and the Lieutenant Governor’s Ontario Heritage Award for Excellence in Conservation in 2016 for Excellence in Conservation for Water Walks, and received distinctions and honours from the Assembly of First Nations National Chief Sean Atleo, Native Women’s Association of Canada, Ontario Native Women’s Association and from the Mayor of Duluth Minnesota.



The print edition of the *Anishinabek News* is a quarterly publication of the *Anishinabek News*. Views expressed are not necessarily the opinion or political position of the Union of Ontario Indians.

No portion of this paper, or online content, including advertisements, artwork, photos and editorial content may be reproduced without written permission of the *Anishinabek News* Editor.

Readers are invited to submit letters, articles, and photos for publication. Please include your name, address and telephone number on all material submitted. All submissions will be reviewed for publication based on priority of interest and edited for clarity of thought, taste, brevity and legal implications. Remuneration will be paid for submissions only if a written agreement with the Editor is made prior to publication.

For news all the time, visit:
www.anishinabeknews.ca

Editor: Marci Becking
Assistant Editor: Laura Barrios
Layout: Marci Becking
Advertising: Marci Becking

Contributors: Marina Plain, Catherine Murton Stoehr,

PH: 705-497-9127 ~ 1-877-702-5200
www.anishinabeknews.ca
E-MAIL: news@anishinabek.ca
P.O. Box 711, Nipissing First Nation, North Bay, ON, P1B 8J8

The current circulation of the Anishinabek News is 3,000 copies.

 **DEADLINE FOR SUMMER PRINT EDITION**

June 7, 2019

For more information or inquiries to the Anishinabek News related to circulation issues please call our Toll-free number: 1-877-702-5200 All advertising inquiries can be sent to news@anishinabek.ca

www.anishinabeknews.ca

ISSN 1182-3178 ANISHINABEK NEWS (PRINT)
ISSN 1923-0710 ANISHINABEK NEWS (ONLINE)



25th Annual Great Lakes Pow-wow Guide printed May 2019

Copies to be delivered to First Nations and select locations.

Having a pow-wow?
Send in your listing to
news@anishinabek.ca by
April 15th



Mike Restoule, chair of the Robinson Huron litigation trust, was a panelist at Robinson Huron Treaty (RHT) Post-Decision Panel at the University of Sudbury (photo on file).
— Photo by Laura Barrios

Panel discusses the Robinson Huron Annuities Claim/Superior Hennessy verdict

By Catherine Murton Stoehr

SUDBURY— In mid February, Sarah Rice, Director of the Indigenous Portfolio at the University of Sudbury, hosted a panel to facilitate knowledge sharing in the wake of the Honourable Patricia Hennessy of the Superior Court of Canada's historic decision in the first of three possible trials of the Robinson Huron/Superior treaty claim.

Speakers addressed issues arising from the verdict from multiple levels of magnification.

Gimaa Kwe Valerie Richer of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, like all of the speakers, was emphatic that she was speaking on her own account and not for the Robinson Huron Chiefs, the Robinson Huron Litigation Trust, or its legal team.

Taking a wide angle on the case Gimaa Kwe Richer asked the audience to consider its national context. How it is that Canada is a legitimate nation-state?

"We never lost a war, we weren't conquered, and we were never asked to join Canada."

Gimaa Kwe Richer suggested that students could better understand Canadian legal assumptions by investigating the concept of "assumed crown sovereignty" (presumably a legal justification for the imposition of Canadian political authority on First Peoples).

Referencing TRC call to action #45 that calls upon the Government of Canada to "Renew or establish Treaty relationships", the Chief said that Treaties ensure rights but also bestow obligations, "such as understanding what the treaty is, respecting the territorial boundaries, educating yourself and your children."

Noting that the Robinson Huron Treaty is "a sacred treaty because it was conducted in ceremony and was forward-looking in terms of future generations," Gimaa Kwe Richer

concluded with the question, "how come we don't have a monument to our treaty?"

Mike Restoule, chair of the Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Trust, took the mic and focussed in on some of the history of the litigation and the treaty.

Restoule echoed several of the themes laid out by Gimaa Kwe Richer — the call for shared treaty responsibility, respect, and renewal, adding on the concept of reciprocity. Speaking directly to the verdict, Restoule shared that it "recognized the Anishinaabe perspective of the treaty and that was very important to me as an Anishinaabe person" the judge had enjoined the Crown to "respect the jurisdiction of the Anishinabek over the territory."

Restoule noted that the Anishinabek story of the woman who married a beaver, shared with the court by professor Heidi Kiiwetinepinesik Stark, was critical to their understanding that the Anishinabek had and continue to have responsibilities to each other, the land, and all of the plants and animals.

Former judge, the Honourable Stephen O'Neill, answers questions during the Robinson Huron Treaty (RHT) Post-Decision Panel at the University of Sudbury (photo on file). Photo by: Laura Barrios.

Questions from the audience revealed that some are thinking about the litigation in ways that might not occur to people steeped in the language and protocols of the Canadian courts. The first question returned to the wide view of Gimaa Richer's remarks, questioning the ethics of Justice Hennessy's reference to the treaty as an instrument of land surrender (cessation) in the verdict. One panelist, a former judge, the Honourable Stephen O'Neill, responded that the reference to cessation was one sentence on the first page in a verdict of over one hundred pages

and not pertinent to the only question put to the judge, which was: was the four dollar cap fixed?

"We are very happy with how the court answered that [cap] question."

O'Neill celebrated the verdict's acknowledgment of the Treaty of Niagara, first recognized by the courts in 2000. He said that in that case, there was less relevant expert testimony. The 2018 Robinson Huron/Superior verdict drew on Alan Corbiere's extensive testimony about Niagara that facilitated a verdict he claims is very different from that of 2000, one that "breathes life into the understandings of Niagara."

Question period revealed an information imbalance between panelists and listeners. Some audience members were focussed on specific matters. Concerns about how a payout of settlement money might actually harm community members were met with general answers, even in one case where the questioner's concern that convicted violent prisoners might buy their freedom and return home to harm community members could have been laid to rest.

Listeners hoping for specific information, such as what the current state of the negotiations are, the likelihood of Ontario proceeding with an appeal of the Hennessy verdict, what they could expect in terms of years and decades of delay in a worst case scenario in which litigation proceeds through all three of the agreed-upon phases, with the first appealed by Ontario and the following two appealed by both levels of government, left no further ahead. There was a suggestion that asking and answering such questions could harm the outcome of the process in some way. An explanation of how such discussions have harmed outcomes in similar situations could promote understanding outside of legal circles.

Indigenous mindfulness used for healing

By Laura Barrios

CHIPPEWAS OF THE THAMES FIRST NATION—Anishinabek Nation Family Well-Being workers attended a winter training session, with a key focus on mindfulness.

As part of the training held in Chippewas of the Thames First Nation on February 12 to 13, participants heard from keynote speaker Dr. Michael Yellow Bird, a professor of Sociology, and director of Indigenous Tribal Studies at North Dakota State University. Yellow Bird delivered a thought-provoking presentation on neurodecolonization and decolonizing practices, which involves combining mindfulness approaches with traditional and contemporary contemplative practices to re-sculpt neuronal pathways of negative patterns of thought, emotion, and behaviour with healthy, productive ones.

“Our mind is one of the most powerful allies that we have,” stated Yellow Bird. “You can’t be healthy in one place and unhealthy in others – it’s not the way the body works. Research shows us that if we eat well, it can protect us from trauma. We don’t give ourselves what we need to overcome that trauma. Our ancestors did – they walked and moved a lot. What we’ve learned about social work has come from a western way. What I’m giving you is a western way plus Indigenous way.”

Yellow Bird also delved into the Mismatch Theory, whereby modern human beings often find their naturally evolved selves (their fundamental human natures) mismatched or at odds with the current physical, social, and cultural environment. This theory, as explored by Yellow Bird, is applicable to colonialism and its effects on Indigenous Peoples.

“We can decolonize our brain by going into traditional practices and stripping away the harmful and invasive thoughts,

practices, beliefs, values, and traditions,” explained Yellow Bird. “We were raised in an environment where we had cultural things that kept us healthy as Indigenous people – thinking, eating – we’re mismatched with the society today. With all of the suicide, anxiety, chronic diseases – wherever colonization has been, you can find these different kinds of disorders.”

Yellow Bird segued into mindfulness and how it can heal emotions, reset genetic expression, noting that running, sleeping, laughing, meditation, diaphragmatic breathing are effective approaches to achieving mindfulness. He conducted a full body scan where he asked participants to close their eyes and start breathing and to focus on that breath – to create and maintain a sense of relaxation.

“When thoughts come into your brain, they’re just thoughts – they aren’t real. Now we’re going to scan the body to see what it’s doing. Start scanning from your feet, to your heel, to instep of your toes— is there any pain? Then I want you to move your attention up to your ankles,” said Yellow Bird, in a calm, soothing voice as he continued the scan until he reached the brain. “Look at how well and healthy it is – your whole body has been scanned. Keep focusing on your breathing. Notice the health and the wellness in your body. Awareness. What you’re tuned into is your feelings, emotions – connection to your body. Five, four, three, two, and one. Slowly open your eyes. Just remember that you’re enlightened knowing the answers, the questions. I’d like you to turn to a person next to you, and talk about what that experience was like. Difficult? Easy?”

Following the scan, a participant explained that she felt more relaxed and focussed after the activity; others agreed. Yellow Bird noted that there’s a chemical reaction – a lift – when you give yourself a



Dr. Michael Yellow Bird, a professor of Sociology, and director of Indigenous Tribal Studies at North Dakota State University, delivered a thought-provoking presentation on neurodecolonization and decolonizing practices, including Indigenous mindfulness, at the Anishinabek Nation Family Well-Being Winter Training in Chippewas of the Thames First Nation on February 12.

moment to relax.

“Disrupting your chain of thoughts and stopping them to stay in one place at one moment – whether you’re singing, beading – so long as you know what you’re doing in that moment, that’s mindfulness,” explained Yellow Bird. “As long as it’s focussed. The

longer we do it, the more good stuff happens in our brain. The more it grows. The more we are protected against stress and traumas.”

Mindfulness is a tool that Family Well-Being workers can use as they carry out their work in their respective First Nations, and share with their clients to practice.

**Know a retailer not honouring
the PST exemption?
Call 1-866-668-8297
(1-866-ONT-TAXS)**

Koganaawsawin Working Group strategizes best practices

By Marina Plain

AAMIJWNAANG FIRST NATION— The Anishinabek Nation Social Development Department recently hosted a Child Well-Being Working Group Meeting from February 5-6.

The meeting saw some 35 individuals from across the Anishinabek territory gather to share information and best practices with respect to the approval and implementation of the Child Well-Being Law. Delegates ranged from Band Representatives, Elders, Band Councillors, Family Service Workers and family advocates.

Adrienne Pelletier, Anishinabek Nation Social Development Director, has been working steadily toward the development and implementation of the Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law for the past

few years. Currently, 14 First Nations have passed the law in their First Nation.

Other First Nations have expressed their interest to pass the Law, but are seeking further information. Often multiple visits and presentations are required to their First Nation members and leadership to make sure that all questions on the law are answered.

Pelletier attributes her tireless dedication to this work to her grandmother.

“My grandmother instilled this fierce fire within me,” noted Pelletier in her opening remarks.

The other driving force is Tracey O’Donnell, legal counsel on the child well-being initiatives who has also been working tirelessly on the law. The two are happy with the overall progress to date and they shared that there are plenty of meetings planned.

The duo, together with the social team, are on a mission to see the law passed by over 20 Anishinabek First Nations by June of this year.

The next steps will be to support the 14 First Nations with full implementation of the law and the establishment of Koganaawsawin the central body supporting the Anishinabek First Nations and their agencies to address child welfare matters in addition, Pelletier advised the working group that steps are being taken to appoint an Anishinabek Nation Children’s Commissioner.

Going forward, Pelletier urges all Band Representatives to “occupy the field” in their respective First Nation and to keep pushing forward with their work. She encourages each First Nation to access funds made available for Band Representatives through

the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) ruling.

The final part of the working group meeting focussed on the development of the Anishinabek Nation dispute resolution process for child welfare matters. Leanna Farr and Stan Cloud who are leading this initiative shared information on the input provided to date by the Anishinabek leaders and citizens on an alternative dispute resolution model. A meeting is scheduled for March 20-21, 2019, in Orillia for the working group to continue to work on the dispute resolution model.

The next CWBWG meeting is scheduled for May 1-2, 2019. For more information, please contact: Cecile Hookimaw at cecile.hookimaw@anishnabek.ca or 705-497-9127 ext. 2311



Drummers from Garden River First Nation opened the three-day Anishinabek Nation Governance Gathering at the Delta Waterfront in Baawaating Traditional Territory.

— Photos by Laura Barrios

Anishinabek Nation leadership gather to discuss restoring rightful jurisdiction

BAAWAATING TRADITIONAL TERRITORY (SAULT STE. MARIE, ON)
March 5, 2019 — Anishinabek Nation leadership have come together at the Anishinabek Nation Governance Gathering in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

The objective of the conference is to build a sense of unity and understanding about the proposed Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement.

“It’s us as leaders that need to make the call about what happens for the good of our people,” says Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Glen Hare. “It’s our own destiny to lead our communities the right way—the Anishinaabe way.”

The draft Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement is a self-government agreement with Canada that recognizes the Anishinabek Nation member First Nations’ jurisdiction over their elections, language and culture, citizenship, and First Nation government management.

The Governance Agreement is an important step out from parts of the Indian Act towards greater self-determination. It will establish a nation-to-nation relationship

between the Anishinabek Nation, its member First Nations and the Government of Canada to address concerns and issues important to member First Nations.

“This Agreement will provide our First Nations with opportunities to enact their own election laws and to look at ways of promoting more use of our Anishinaabemowin language and incorporating more of our ceremonial ways of conducting our meetings and governing ourselves in a more traditional fashion,” says Anishinabek Nation Chief Negotiator Martin Bayer. “It will also provide us with the opportunity to define for ourselves, who our citizens are and the rights, privileges and responsibilities that come with that citizenship.”

A vote on the proposed Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement is planned for later this year.

“The opportunity is here now, the momentum is here for all of us to be leaders in our communities,” adds Grand Council Chief Hare. “We say what happens in our communities — we make the laws. We can no longer have another government doing this for us.”



“We have to keep using it, listen to it, because we’re losing it. Our grandparents are leaving us and they’re taking that history. We have to save our language,” says Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Glen Hare during his opening remarks at Day 2 of the Governance Gathering.



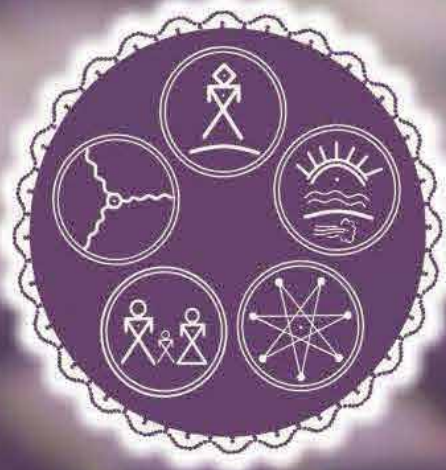
“Our job is to welcome them back and give them the sense of their culture & identity — this will be a way to build the best nation,” says Jeannette Corbiere-Lavell, Anishinabek Nation Commissioner in Citizenship, on the importance of educating Anishinaabe youth.



Leadership and participants of Day 1 of the Anishinabek Nation Governance Gathering heard from Alan Corbiere about Nation-to-Nation relationships.

Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement

25 Years in the Making



governancevote.ca

SAVE THE DATE



Anishinabek Nation Health Conference

JANUARY 21, 22, 23, 2020

**HEROES IN HEALTH AWARDS
WORKSHOPS
PRESENTATIONS
INFORMATION AND CRAFT
BOOTHs**

Health Secretariat, Anishinabek Nation
Head Office: Nipissing First Nation
705-497-9127 | Email: info@anishinabek.ca



[/AnishinabekNationYouth](https://www.facebook.com/AnishinabekNationYouth)



[#anishnation](https://twitter.com/anishnation)



www.anishinabek.ca



[anishinabeknation](https://www.instagram.com/anishinabeknation)





[Anishinabek Nation](https://www.youtube.com/AnishinabekNation)



Treaty Education Day at Kikendawt Kinoomaadii Gamig
Staff and students of Kikendawt Kinoomaadii Gamig in Dokis First Nation participated in a Treaty Education Day with Kelly Crawford and Elder Josh Eshkawkogan on March 8. Activities during the day were from the We are all Treaty People teachers kit developed by Kelly Crawford and available through the Anishinabek Nation head office. Lessons about finding out what treaty area you live in, the LEGO wampum belt and what the treaty relationship means to you. The students were introduced to the two books Alex Shares his Wampum Belt and Dakota Talks about Treaties. Brenda Labreche and Alex Hebert helped with the activities and the day was hosted by the Anishinabek Educational Institute. – Photos by Marci Becking

Apply today!

 **Anishinabek Educational Institute**



POST-SECONDARY PROGRAMS

Diploma



Native Community Worker
Native Early Childhood Education
Practical Nursing
Social Services Worker

Certificate

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
First Nation Child Welfare Advocate
Pre-Health Sciences
Personal Support Worker

Registration is free! Contact us today @ 1-800-334-3330 aeipostsecondary.ca
*In Partnership with Accredited Ontario Colleges

Anyone can apply!

 Like us on Facebook 



Heart&Stroke™

Learn the signs of stroke

F

ace

is it drooping?

A

rms

can you raise both?

S

peech

is it slurred or jumbled?

T

imeto call 9-1-1 right away, or
your local emergency number.Act **FAST** because the quicker
you act, the more of the person you save.heartandstroke.ca/FAST

Funding provided by:

 Ontario

© Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, 2019 | "The heart and / icon on its own and the heart and / icon followed by another icon or words are trademarks of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada. Views expressed by the Heart and Stroke Foundation do not necessarily reflect those of the Government of Ontario.

Congratulations **Dianne Corbiere** 2019 Indspire Award Recipient

As a lawyer who has dedicated her career to working for First Nations and as a benchler of the Law Society of Ontario since 2016, Ms. Corbiere has been a catalyst for change in areas of Indigenous policy and legal issues, equity, governance, mental health issues, and more.

Ms. Corbiere, who is Anishinaabe from M'Chigeeng First Nation, is being recognized nationally by Indspire as a role model in the legal profession and beyond. We congratulate Ms. Corbiere on this award, the very highest of honours.

Learn more about Indspire:
www.indspire.ca

Contact the Law Society:
www.lso.ca

Email: lawsociety@lso.ca

Toll-free line: 1-800-668-7380



Law Society
of Ontario

Barreau
de l'Ontario