



The Anishinabek Nation Social Development Department launched the Koganaawsawin, central body supporting the Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law, on the second day of the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Assembly in Georgina Island First Nation. Social portfolio holder Ogimaa Duke Peltier of Wiikemkoong Unceded Territory and Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Glen Hare with youth from Long Lake #58 First Nation, Georgina Island First Nation, Pic Mobert and Biigtigong Nishnaabeg. – Photo by Laura Barrios

## Central body supporting Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law launched at Grand Council Assembly

CHIPPEWAS OF GEORGINA ISLAND FIRST NATION – Anishinabek Nation's Social Development Department launched Koganaawsawin, the central body supporting the Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law, this morning at the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Assembly on June 5, 2019.

The launch was held as a celebration of the work that the Anishinabek Nation technicians and Child Well-Being Law Working Group members have started in collaboration with the federal and provincial governments, to support the oppor-

tunities for success in addressing development priorities for Anishinabek children, youth and families.

"This is so awesome for our kids," says Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Glen Hare. "The Anishinabek approach to child and youth well-being and unity is premised on the principles of wellness, healing and family-unity. We hope that Canada and Ontario will continue to support not only our kids, but all kids, youth and families in Ontario through effective programs and services."

The Law is an exercise of the

Anishinabek First Nations' inherent right and jurisdiction over child and youth well-being and child welfare. Each Anishinabek First Nation has the authority to enact the law for their citizens.

"We would like to acknowledge the ongoing support from the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada," says Adrienne Pelletier, Director of the Social Development Department at the Anishinabek Nation. "We have a sacred duty to ensure the well-being of our people. At this point in time, 19 Anishinabek First Nations have taken the initial

steps to create a new reality for our children, youth and families."

Following a Sunrise Ceremony with Anishinabek Nation Head Getz-it Gordon Waindubence, the launch of Koganaawsawin began with Biinojiiyag, a ceremonial prayer song for Anishinabek children, sung by The Raindance Singers.

Presentations with the remaining Anishinabek First Nations will continue to be coordinated in hopes that more communities, with the support of Koganaawsawin, will choose to enact and implement the Anishinabek Nation Child Well-Being Law.





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# Grand Council Chief Hare urges citizens to find out more about the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement

Boozhoo, Aaniin Kina Waya,  
After nearly 25 years of negotiations with Canada, the Anishinabek First Nations are heading into an exciting time.

A successful ratification vote on the *Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement* will see Canada finally recognizing our unceded jurisdiction in the areas of culture and language, election process and citizenship.

The *Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement* and the *Anishinabek Nation Fiscal Agreement* were negotiated with direction from Chiefs, citizens and the Governance Working Group over the years. The Agreement doesn't take away from our inherent or treaty rights.

I encourage all Anishinabek Nation citizens to get informed and be engaged in the process. Go to a First Nation Open House or attend a regional information session and

ask any question you may have. Visit [www.governancevote.ca](http://www.governancevote.ca) for detailed information. Find out about the fiscal offer for your First Nation. Tell your family that lives away from home. Visit our booths on the pow-wow trail, check out the news stories on [www.anishinabeknews.ca](http://www.anishinabeknews.ca), and stay connected to us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

It is important that your First Nation has your current mailing address to send information and notices for the community approval vote starting in August.

Electronic voting for the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement will take place between August 1 and November 30. Find out from your First Nation for times to vote in person or by mail-in ballot.

For far too long we have heard that we need to get out from under the *Indian Act*. This is our opportunity to do just that! Again. Just as we succeeded in

education, we can again demonstrate that our leadership election processes, our law-making authorities as guided by our Chi'Naaknigewin, our language and our culture will thrive under our authorities as each community determines.

A very critical element of this agreement is determining our own citizens – we know we are bringing babies into our world who do not meet Canada's criteria of being a member of our community – these babies need to belong to us; status or not. We can determine who our people are and we will.

I encourage every Anishinabek Nation citizen to take the time to understand what the *Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement* can mean to you, your family and your community now, and well into those seven generations ahead that we must always be mindful of. It's your vote for your future! Let's make this happen! Nishin.

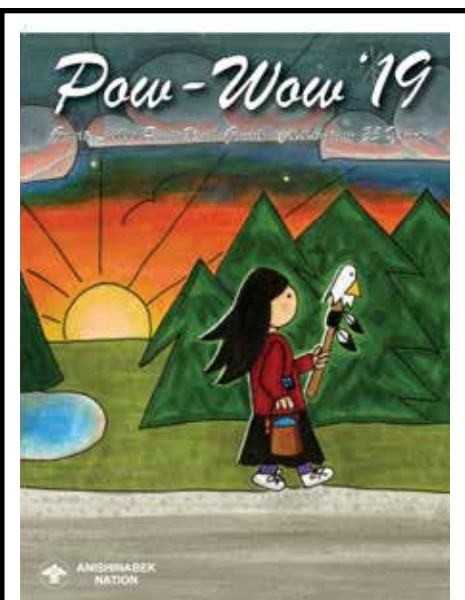
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The 25th anniversary edition of the Great Lakes Pow-Wow Guide now available online at [www.anishinabek.ca](http://www.anishinabek.ca).

15,000 print editions were distributed to band offices and Friendship Centres.




## Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement

### INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR ANISHINABEK NATION CITIZENS

#### Upcoming Sessions

<p><b>LAKE HURON</b> June 24, 2019 <b>North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre</b> 980 Cassells St., North Bay, ON 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm</p> <p>June 25, 2019 <b>Parry Sound Friendship Centre</b> 13 Bowes St., Parry Sound, ON 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm</p> <p>June 26, 2019 <b>Holiday Inn Sudbury</b> 1696 Regent St., Sudbury ON 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm</p> <p>June 27, 2019 <b>Quattro Hotel &amp; Conference Centre</b> 229 Great Northern Rd., Sault Ste. Marie, ON 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm</p>	<p><b>SOUTHWEST</b> July 24, 2019 <b>Four Points by Sheraton</b> 1150 Wellington Rd. South, London, ON 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm</p> <p><b>SOUTHEAST</b> July 31, 2019 <b>Holiday Inn &amp; Conference Centre</b> 20 Fairview Rd., Barrie, ON 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm</p> <p><b>NORTHERN SUPERIOR</b> July 10th, 2019 August 7th 2019 <b>Victoria Inn</b> 555 Arthur Street W., Thunder Bay, ON 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm</p>
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Kizhay Wandizi Quay, Baker Lake, NY; Kitahkahkonz Kwe (Irene Peters), Munsee Delaware; Donna Debassige, Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory; Hayley Williamson, Georgina Island First Nation; Hillary Clermont, Penetanguishene; Vicki Wolske, Georgina Island First Nation; Stephanie Peltier, Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory; Anishinabek Nation Chief Water Commissioner Autumn Peltier, Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory after the honouring the Water Walkers ceremony during Day One of the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Assembly on June 4, 2019, in Georgina Island First Nation.

— Photo by Laura Barrios

## Mndaadendang Nibi Ekeanjigewat Honouring our Water Protectors

By Laura Barrios

CHIPPEWAS OF GEORGINA ISLAND—Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Glen Hare was pleased to honour the new Anishinabek Nation Chief Water Commissioner, Autumn Peltier, on the first day of the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Assembly on June 4 in Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation.

“This morning in ceremony, we celebrated and honoured the appointment of Autumn to the highly regarded role of Chief Water Commissioner of the Anishinabek Nation,” stated Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Glen Hare. “Autumn, on behalf of the Anishinabek Nation, you need to know that we are very proud of you. Chi-miigwetch for accepting the Commissioner role on behalf of our Nation.”

The assembly’s theme – Mndaadendang

Nibi Ekeanjigewat (Honouring our Water Protectors)—gave thanks to the previous Anishinabek Nation Chief Water Commissioner, the late Grandmother Josephine Mandamin. Peltier, who is the great-niece of Josephine, was also celebrated for her new position.

“[Autumn’s] dedication to continue the work initiated by Grandmother Josephine is a fine example of youth leading the way,” expressed Grand Council Chief Hare. “The Anishinabek Nation stands strong with all of our water protectors. You do great service to our precious Nibi—miigwetch.”

Peltier, a 14-year-old youth from Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory on Manitoulin Island, began her water advocacy journey at the young age of eight-years-old. She has advocated for the water at the United Nations and the Assembly of First Nations,

and plans to continue in Grandmother Josephine’s footsteps.

“Auntie began her journey before I was born—I can only hope I can do what she has taught me to do and be as good as she hoped I would be. And I hope she smiles down on the role and work I’m about to carry on,” stated the new Anishinabek Nation Chief Water Commissioner during her remarks. “When I say I’m walking in her footsteps, I may not be on the exact path, but I’m creating my own path. And a path where my great-grandchildren will have clean water, fresh, healthy animals and plants, and fresh, clean nourishment for many more years.”

The Anishinabek Women’s Water Commission was established in 2007. Its mandate is to provide advice for Anishinabek Nation leadership and citizens on water and Great Lakes management issues through

dialogue and information exchange. The commission plays a leadership role in raising awareness on all water issues, sharing their traditional knowledge, teachings and values.

To conclude the celebrations, Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Glen Hare had another announcement to share with leadership and participants of the Grand Council Assembly.

“We would like to honour Josephine and the Water protectors with the Anishinabek Nation declaring April 22 as Great Lakes Day,” states Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Glen Hare. “This day is to remember and honour Josephine’s work that she has done, and to honour the work that Autumn will be carrying on. This is a time of renewal, a new beginning, and a new life.”

Great Lakes Day to be celebrated on April 22 every year by all in Ontario.







Anishinabek Nation Chiefs-in-Assembly on June 5, 2019 in Georgina Island First Nation with the Anishinabek Nation Blanket of Hope. The Blanket of Hope represents the Spirit of the Indigenous Women and Girls who have been murdered and stolen. The Blanket of Hope holds one earring of a pair, symbolizing the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women who have been stolen in Canada.  
— Photo by Marci Becking

## Final Report on national inquiry into MMIWG confirms genocide; cannot be ignored

CHIPPEWAS OF GEORGINA ISLAND FIRST NATION (June 5, 2019) — The Anishinabek Nation Chiefs-in-Assembly stand united following the long anticipated release of The National Inquiry's Final Report, *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*.

"This report cannot be another document that just sits on the shelf," states Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Glen Hare, on behalf of the Chiefs-in-Assembly at the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Assembly. "This matter is far too grave and far too prominent to let it go unaddressed. This re-

port confirms the genocide and systemic racism that we, at the community-level, face on a daily basis. The senseless loss of our people needs to stop — the targeted genocide must stop. Our women are the heart and home of our Nations. As the land gives us life and sustains us, so do our women."

After more than three years, the report released on June 3, in Gatineau, Quebec, reveals that "persistent and deliberate human and Indigenous rights violations and abuses are the root cause behind Canada's staggering rates of violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA."

The report calls upon all levels of gov-

ernment, police and Canadians "for transformative legal and social changes to resolve the crisis that has devastated Indigenous communities across the country."

The report, which contains 231 Calls for Justice, would not have been made possible without the testimonies and truths shared from over 2,380 survivors of violence, family members, experts, and Knowledge Keepers.

"These survivors and family members are change-makers for sharing their stories and the stories of those taken but not forgotten, as they made this report possible. They have shed light on this matter for those that

were not able to see and understand before. Now, they simply cannot ignore our cries and pleas to help us protect our women and keep them safe," states Grand Council Chief Hare. "We, the Chiefs-in-Assembly gathered today, standing united, call on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and all levels of government to immediately respond on behalf of Canada, with an immediate action plan to address and implement the Calls for Justice. The continued silence and inaction speaks volumes. Our Nation, our communities, our families and our children have suffered for far too long."

## *Anishinabek Chiefs-in-Assembly unanimously oppose small modular reactors on Anishinabek territory*

ANISHINABEK NATION HEAD OFFICE (June 10, 2019)—The Anishinabek Nation Chiefs-in-Assembly sent a strong message to the nuclear industry and the governments of Canada and Ontario on June 6 at the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Assembly in Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation.

The Chiefs unanimously endorsed a Grand Council Resolution stating their clear opposition to the construction, operation, storage or disposal of small modular reactors (SMRs) in the territory of the Anishinabek Nation, including bodies of water.

"We, as Anishinabek, have the responsibility to act as stewards of our lands and waters," states Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Glen Hare. "SMRs and nuclear power in general represents an unacceptable risk to our Nation. The Anishinabek Nation is vehemently opposed to any effort to situate SMRs within our territory. The stance we have taken is in support of the seven generations to come."

Small Modular Reactors are not only smaller in scale than the types of nuclear power reactors that many Ontarians are familiar with, but are also transportable. Industry proponents of the SMRs are positioning this technology as a cheap energy and heating source for remote communities. The largest push to adopt these small nuclear fission re-

actors has come from those in the industry who are looking for cheap energy to power their mines and other industrial developments.

The federal government has now put their support behind the SMRs.

"The Anishinabek Nation has advised the Senate Review Committee on Bill C-69 of our opposition to the effort of the nuclear industry in seeking exemptions from the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act," adds Grand Council Chief Hare.

Bill C-69, An Act to enact the Impact Assessment Act and the Canadian Energy Regulator Act, to amend the Navigation Protection Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts, changes how major infrastructure projects are assessed and approved, including oil and gas pipelines, electricity transmission and major highway and ports. The Bill recently underwent its Third Reading and was passed by the Senate with amendments on June 6.

Anishinabek leaders are concerned with potential environmental implications of SMRs. These reactors are small in scale but could contribute to the growing amount of nuclear waste that the federal government is looking to dispose of somewhere in Ontario.

"While other countries are shifting away from nuclear energy to more sustainable



Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Glen Hare.

— Photo by Laura Barrios

sources for their energy needs, Canada appears to be welcoming the expansion of the nuclear industry, with limited assurance on the safe containment of radioactive waste," expresses Grand Council Chief Hare. "I am concerned that Canada may become the radioactive dump of the world as other countries seek to dispose of their radioactive waste."

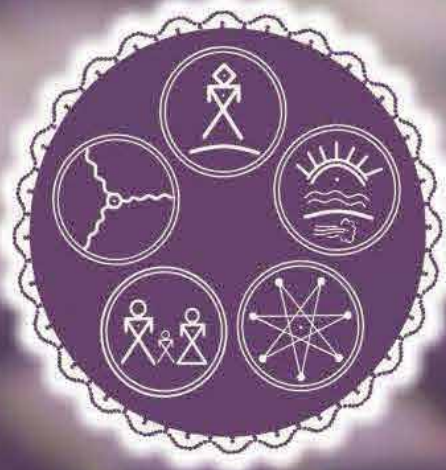
The Anishinabek Nation has been working with the Iroquois Caucus to oppose the transportation and disposal of nuclear waste

in Anishinabek territory for many years. The Grand Council Resolution put forth is in line with a similar resolution passed by the Assembly of First Nations that demands the federal government uphold the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Article 29. The Article reads, "States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials take place in the lands and territories of Indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent."



# Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement

25 Years in the Making



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## Drinking water from Collins Lake for the first time in 40 years

It has been 40 years since the people of Namaygoosisagagun were able to drink the water from Collins Lake. This was done with the technology of Sawyer Products and the support of the Dreamcatcher Fund.

Darrel Lawson of Sawyer Products and Gimaakwe Helen Paavola were on hand with students from their community school where the students filtered and drank water from the lake for the first time ever in their remote community.

Sawyer Products hopes to bring these filters to every Anishinabek Nation First Nation that needs and deserves clean drinking water.

— Photo by Deanna Therriault

## New name and agreement for employment and skills program

Aboriginal Skills Employment and Training has a new name. The program is now known as the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) Program after signing a 10-year agreement with Canada on April 1, 2019.



Polly Bobiwash

ISET is a program for Indigenous people who are looking to improve their job skills and find employment.

"The Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program provides a First Nations approach to employment and skills development, capacity building at the local levels and skill development that is incremental on a continuum towards higher earnings," says Director of Labour Market Development Polly Bobiwash. "Career awareness activities with the younger generation will also be a focus under this program."

To help meet labour market demands, ISET service delivery organizations offer a variety of employment programs and services.

Using an integrated approach, ISET will link your training needs to labour market demands, providing you with training or skills upgrading and with help finding a job.

All Indigenous people, regardless of status or location, may access its programs and services, which include trainings for skills development and employment; mentoring for high-demand jobs; targeted job coaching to Indigenous people including those with disabilities and child care support.

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# Health Transformation will be developed by Anishinabek, for Anishinabek

**By Marci Becking**

**CHIPPEWAS OF GEORGINA ISLAND FIRST NATION** – A resolution was passed at the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Assembly in Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation that gives authority to the Health Department at the Anishinabek Nation head office to proceed with negotiations with Canada and Ontario in regards to asserting Anishinabek jurisdiction over health.

"Our people are tired of the way things are now with waiting for things such as eye glasses, braces and dialysis machines," says Tom Bressette, champion for Health Transformation. "We need to do this for our people."

The plan for Health Transformation will have no impact on the fiduciary duty of the Crown, no impact on Aboriginal Title Rights and Treaty Rights, and is without prejudice to any self-governing agreements or court proceedings.

First Nations health contribution agreements will be protected and enhanced. There will be an increased community-level flexibility in spending decisions to meet the First Nation's needs and priorities.

Anishinabek Nation Health Director Jamie Restoule says that there are even

more fiscal benefits.

"There will be higher escalators applied against the entire amount, simple process to carry unspent funds, and more efficiency," says Restoule. "One-time only funding will be negotiated for infrastructure for new builds, major repairs and on-going increases to operations and maintenance."

First Nations will be central to the design and delivery of health services at the community level.

"These health services will be coordinated with other community-based services. The First Nation will set the priorities for the community."

The agreement will also acknowledge cultural knowledge, traditional practices and medicines as integral to the well-being of First Nations.

"It will acknowledge and act on the importance of community solutions and approaches," adds Restoule.

First Nations and Inuit Health Branch and Ontario, in cooperation with First Nations, will continue to evolve from that of a designer and deliverer of First Nations health services to that of a funder and government partner.

"This will be devolution," says Bressette. "It will devolve the delivery of pro-

grams to local levels as much as possible and when feasible and appropriate."

Restoule says that the Anishinabek First Nation Health Authority (AFNHA) is the entity created by First Nations to accept transfer for health services and then transform them to meet First Nation's needs.

"The Anishinabek First Nation Health Authority is not the Union of Ontario Indians," says Restoule. "The Union of Ontario Indians is there to support the AFNHA as it is established as a Health Authority. Non-Anishinabek Nation communities are welcome to join the AFNHA."

The AFNHA will be governed by the communities that have created the Authority.

"There are many benefits of Health Transformation," says Restoule. "There are the benefits of being a larger organization with stronger and more powerful health advocates. An increased focus of health as a business. There will be better coordination and planning of infrastructure, housing and social services. Better access to specialized services such as epidemiology."

Health Transformation will also produce more local and good paying jobs with benefits, an increased focus on health issues and health careers, service decisions



Champion for Health Transformation, Tom Bressette, speaks at the Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chiefs assembly on June 5 in Georgina Island First Nation.

will be made closer to the clients served and an integration of services will result in better services at a lower cost.

The Health Transformation team consists of Health Director Jamie Restoule, Fiscal consultant John Scherebnyj, champion Tom Bressette and administrative coordinator Jess Sandy.

Initial meetings have already started for Chippewas of Rama First Nation and Curve Lake First Nation.

For more information, contact Jess Sandy 705-497-9127 ext. 2231.





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