



Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Glen Hare and Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Carolyn Bennett initial the proposed Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement in Sault Ste. Marie on August 23, 2019. — Photo by Cindy Males

Anishinabek Nation and Canada celebrate key milestone on historic self-government agreement

Vote to take place between February 1-29, 2020

SAULT STE.MARIE, ON – The Anishinabek Nation and Canada are working together to lay the foundation for Anishinabek Nation First Nations in Ontario to move beyond the Indian Act toward self-government and chart their own path to a brighter future for their communities.

On August 23, Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, and Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Glen Hare celebrated the initialing of a proposed Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement and the formal launch of the Anishinabek First Nations community approval process.

To date, 20 Anishinabek Nation First Nations throughout Ontario have committed to holding a community vote on

the proposed Agreement. If ratified, the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement would be the first Indigenous self-government governance agreement in Ontario.

“Our Anishinaabe leaders have been consistently pursuing moving beyond the Indian Act,” said Grand Council Chief Glen Hare. “The Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement is a major milestone in our journey towards restoring our traditional governance in this modern world. We are ensuring our survival as Anishinaabe, and that is the greatest responsibility our leaders have.”

Once the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement is ratified, the Government of Canada will recognize Anishinabek law-making powers and authority over how their First Nations are

governed. Four parts of the Indian Act that deal with governance will no longer apply to the Anishinabek First Nations who ratify the proposed Agreement. The First Nations will make their own decisions about leadership selection, citizenship, government operations, as well as how best to protect and promote Anishinaabe language and culture.

“Congratulations to the Anishinabek Nation, the First Nations and the negotiating teams on reaching this historic milestone on the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement,” said Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Carolyn Bennett. “This is an important opportunity to restore Anishinabek control over governance, move beyond the Indian Act and implement the First Nations’ vision of greater self-determination and

a better future for their communities.”

This builds upon the education self-government agreement concluded with 23 Anishinabek Nation First Nations in 2018. The Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement already recognizes Anishinabek law-making powers and authority over education on reserve from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12, as well as administrative control over funding for post-secondary education.

Now that negotiations have concluded, the next step is further information sharing and outreach with First Nation citizens.

Following the engagement process, Anishinabek First Nations will hold a ratification vote on the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement between February 1 and February 29, 2020.

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

Contributors: Rick Garrick and Alex Hebert.

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

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**Anishinabek
Nation
Governance
Agreement
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Feb. 1-29, 2020**

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- mail-in ballot
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Positive outcomes for women and children with removal of gender-based discrimination from *Indian Act*

ANISHINABEK NATION HEAD OFFICE – Canada has updated the Indian Registration System to eliminate the long-standing gender-based discrimination. With the remaining provisions of Bill S-3 coming into force, descendants born before April 17, 1985, who lost their status or who were removed from “band” lists due to marriages to non-status men dating back to 1869, will regain eligibility for their status.

“The discrimination that women and their children have experienced has been so harmful, and in many cases, created deep-rooted divisions, separating families and communities. Almost 150 years later, the assimilation machine has been somewhat righted,” stated Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Glen Hare. “I acknowledge Minister Carolyn Bennett and Prime Minister Trudeau for facilitating these amendments to right this wrong without further delay. Your government has done the right thing.”

In 1876, Parliament of Canada passed the Indian Act, which enforced discriminating laws and gave the federal government tremendous control over registered First Nations people, bands and the reserve system.



Grand Council Chief Glen Hare.

In the past, provisions within the Indian Act explicitly favoured paternal lineage, which meant that status women who married non-status men would lose their status, whereas men who married non-status women retained their status and passed status onto their wives and children. In eliminating gender-based discrimination from the *Indian Act*, First Nations women and their descendants who lost their status will have access to post-secondary education funding, non-insured health benefits, legislated rights

and treaty rights.

“Our leadership works tirelessly towards determining our own citizenship to ensure that our families are connected to their language, culture, ceremonies-everything that determines their identity and sense of belonging,” explained Grand Council Chief Hare. “Chi-miigwech to all of those who have helped ensure equal rights for women and children, but especially the strong, resilient, perseverant Anishinaabekwe at the helm refusing to allow the blatant discriminatory *Indian Act* legislation to remove them and their children from their family, community and nation. Ngo Dwe Waangizid Anishinaabe – we are one Anishinaabe family!”

On behalf of its 40 member First Nations, the Anishinabek Nation continuously works toward restoring rightful control over Anishinaabe citizenship. Some of these efforts include the development and implementation of E-dbendaagzijig (Anishinabek Nation Citizenship Law); appointing Jeanette Corbiere Lavell as the Anishinabek Nation Citizenship Commissioner; and including citizenship as a provision in the proposed *Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement*.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Reporting to the Anishinabek Nation/Union of Ontario Indians' Grand Council Chief, the Chief Executive Officer will be responsible for the successful leadership of the organization according to the strategic direction provided by the Leadership Council.

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS: • Expert knowledge and experience in financial and human resource management, policy development and implementation • Demonstrated, strategic planning, priority-setting, decision-making and problem-solving skills • Excellent negotiating and communication skill • Excellent public relations skills • Comprehensive knowledge of federal and provincial government structures, policies and decision-making processes • Sound understanding of First Nation culture, social/economic conditions, political issues and aspirations; • Knowledge of First Nations, First Nation organizations, their mandates and structures • Experience working with a Board of Directors • Experience working with a Charitable organization • Solid written and communication skills.

PERSONAL SUITABILITY: • Ability to work with a multi-disciplinary management team • Ability to plan, manage programs and operations within the framework of the goals, strategic plans and budgets • Self-motivated, ability to work independently • Possess excellent interpersonal skills • Strong knowledge/awareness of Anishinabek language and culture is required • Successful applicant will be required to travel throughout Anishinabek Nation membership communities.

QUALIFICATIONS: • Honours degree in the area of Business Administration, Public Administration, Commerce. • Minimum of five years senior management experience including demonstrated competence in program, human resource and financial management. • Demonstrated knowledge of accounting/auditing practices. • Valid Ontario Class G driver's licence, insurable.

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Individuals of First Nation ancestry are encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to Anishinabek Nation member First Nation applicants. Miigwech to all who apply; only those selected for an interview will be contacted



Some 100 participants at the Eshekenijig and Getzidijig Governance Gathering at the Quattro Hotel and Conference Centre July 30-Aug.1 in Sault Ste. Marie. — Photo by Laura Barrios

Eshekenijig and Getzidijig Governance Gathering brings Anishinaabe together to learn

By Marci Becking

BAAWAATING TRADITIONAL TERRITORY — “Ngo Dwe Waanigizid Anishinaabe. We are one Anishinaabe Family,” said the Anishinabek Nation Male Bonnet Carrier and keynote speaker on behalf of the Eshekenijig (Youth) Council, Quinn Meawasige of Serpent River First Nation. “I really encourage the youth who are here to look around and think about what Ngo Dwe Waanigizid Anishinaabe really means. Meet each other. Building relationships with each other will go a long way. We are going to be the movers and shakers in our communities and make change in our First Nations.”

Meawasige kicked off the three-day Anishinabek Nation Eshekenijig and Getzidijig Governance Gathering in Sault Ste. Marie from July 30 to August 1. Some 100 participants learned about the proposed

Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement and the complementary Anishinabek Nation Fiscal Agreement along with the Traditional Governance Clan Teachings from Nmishomis Gordon Waindubence, Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Head Getzit.

Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Glen Hare reminded conference participants to remember the unborn, our future.

“It’s important to remember those who are to come, the babies and the youth. They are our future,” said Grand Council Chief Hare. “There is no greater responsibility as leaders than to lead the way and ensure our survival as Anishinaabe. That’s why it is so encouraging for me as your Grand Council Chief to look out and see the faces of our nation builders, our Elders and our youth, coming together to continue in the tradition.”

“The *Anishinabek Nation Governance*

Agreement will formally recognize what we have always known: that we have the right to govern ourselves.”

Grand Council Chief explained that the Agreement will start to move our First Nations who ratify it, out of certain sections of the *Indian Act*.

“Right now, decisions about how we elect our Chiefs and Councils, who our citizens are, and how our First Nation governments operate are made by Canada. This has to change! If we are going to improve the lives of our citizens and preserve our Anishinaabe language and culture, we must make our own decisions in these areas according to our priorities. We should not be dictated to by the funding, policies and programs of Canada. We have lived for generations under those constraints and they have done nothing to move our First Nations and our citizens

forward.”

Southeast Regional Deputy Grand Council Chief James R. Marsden also gave an opening statement at the gathering. He said that it’s an exciting time for us to have youth and Elders together here to listen and learn about the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement.

“Once we ratify, we will be able to have control over our own laws in the areas of Financial Management, Elections, Language & Culture and Citizenship. As leaders, we need to help the people understand about this Agreement and remove ourselves from a portion of the Indian Act.”

Other keynote speakers were Southeast Youth Rep Lance Copegog from Beausoleil First Nation and Autumn Peltier, the Anishinabek Nation Chief Water Commissioner from Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory.



Southeast youth representative and citizen of Beausoleil First Nation, Lance Copegog, spoke about what governance and youth involvement means to him. — Photo by Laura Barrios



Anishinabek Nation Chief Water Commissioner and Wiikwemkoong citizen Autumn Peltier reminded us to ‘Leave good footprints’. — Photo by Laura Barrios

Anishinabek Nation celebrates Anishinabek achievement and success

By Jason Restoule

CHIPPEWAS OF RAMA FIRST NATION— On the evening of August 14, the Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity (AN7GC) proudly hosted the 21st Annual Anishinabek Evening of Excellence. The event took place on Chippewas of Rama First Nation Territory at Casino Rama.

Each year, the AN7GC coordinates this important annual event that is not only inspirational, but empowering and a source of pride for our Anishinabek citizens. It is a celebration of Anishinabek achievement and success, with the highlights including the presentation of scholarships to exceptional post-secondary students, as well as prestigious Anishinabek Lifetime Achievement Awards to outstanding Anishinabek citizens.

Some 250 people attended and enjoyed a wonderful evening celebrating eight (8) student scholarship recipients as well as 16 proud Anishinabek Lifetime Achievement Award recipients. In addition to the award presentations, the evening included keynote address by author Penny Tremblay during the dinner portion of the evening.

The 2019 Anishinabek Lifetime Achievement Award recipients are:

Mary Evelyn Banning—Fort William First Nation
Wayne Beaver—Alderville First Nation
Leland Bell—Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory
Chief Patsy Corbiere—Aundeck Omni Kaning
Mary Jane Fraser—Atikameksheng Anishnawbek
Brandy George—Kettle & Stony Point First Nation
A. Leona Irons—Curve Lake First Nation
Evelyn McLeod—Nipissing First Nation
Gert Nootchtai—Atikameksheng Anishnawbek
Cecilia Pitawanakwat—Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory
Beverly Restoule—Dokis First Nation
Geraldine Robertson—Aamjiwnaang First Nation
Chief Kirby Whiteduck—Algonquins of Pikwakanagan
Dr. Shirley Cheechoo
Dr. Paul Chris & Dr. Catherine Chiarelli

This year's Anishinabek Student Excellence Award recipients are:

Michelle Edgar—Mississaugas of Scugog Island
Sterling Finlayson—Long Lake #58 First Nation
Aaron Grootenboer—Algonquins of Pikwakanagan
Raven Hopper—Kettle & Stony Point First Nation
John Hupfield—Wasauksing First Nation
Sarah Johnson-Owl—Sagamok Anishnawbek
Laura Thomerson—Munsee Delaware Nation
Dana Tucker—Dokis First Nation

In addition to the scholarships and Lifetime Achievement Awards, there was also a presentation of the Debwewin Citation. The Debwewin Citations are the first major awards intended to recognize and encourage excellence in reporting about First Nations issues by both First Nations people and other writers. The award name reflects the Anishinaabemowin word for "truth" which literally means "to speak from the heart".

The 2019 Debwewin Citation Award recipients were Vince and Anita Chechock of Wasauksing First Nation.

Congratulations and thank you to all of the award recipients!

The Anishinabek Evening of Excellence would not be possible without the generous financial contributions of devoted sponsors. Their contributions are truly the foundation of this event. Chi-Miigwetch to Union Gas, Ontario Power Generation, Casino Rama Resort, WP Financial, Bell, Hydro One, Choice Hotels, Quattro Hotel Sault Ste. Marie, Holiday Inn Sudbury, and Delta Sault Ste. Marie!

The AN7GC is extremely proud of the success of this year's event and is already looking forward to hosting the 22nd Annual Anishinabek Evening of Excellence in 2020!

For Anishinabek Lifetime Achievement Award nomination information or for scholarship application information, please visit the AN7GC website at www.an7gc.ca.



Leland Bell of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory.



Brandy George of Kettle & Stony Point First Nation with Southwest Deputy Regional Grand Council Chief Joe Miskokomon.



Sterling Finlayson of Long Lake #58 First Nation is one of this year's Anishinabek Student Excellence Award recipients.



Vince and Anita Chechock of Wasauksing First Nation, received the Debwewin Citation for Excellence in Storytelling.
— Photos by Laura Barrios

Recent Community Leader meeting opportunity to address lack of political attention in Northern Ontario

By Rick Garrick

THUNDER BAY — Provincial NDP leader Andrea Horwath met with a group of community leaders, including Municipality of Shuniah Mayor Wendy Landry and Fort William First Nation Councillors Tannis Kastern and Sheldon Bannon, during a Community Leaders' Luncheon on Aug. 29 in Thunder Bay. The luncheon was held on the final day of the Aug. 27-29 NDP caucus meeting of about 40 NDP MPPs at Delta Hotels Thunder Bay.

"Andrea and I have a great relationship," says Landry, a Red Rock Indian Band citizen and president of the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association who sat at the head table along with Horwath and others during the luncheon. "We are in touch quite often on how the official opposition can help us in the northwest continue our advocacy for the needs of these municipalities and these people."

Landry raised a question during the luncheon question session on what the NDP can do to assist municipalities to ensure they can continue to count on adequate funding to assist with infrastructure development and what can be done to provide new revenue tools in an effort to generate funding for program delivery.

"One of the things we know is necessary is stable predictable reliable funding for municipalities," Horwath says, noting that the NDP is committed to bringing the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund back up to \$550 million — it is currently set

at \$505 million for 2019 — and to tie it to inflation so it will not be eroded in the future. "Municipalities are very concerned about what is going to happen. You've seen what is happening right here in Thunder Bay — municipalities are having to make untenable decisions about programs that are being forced to be cut, programs that actually prevent problems from happening and support people when they need them."

Kastern received a standing ovation for her question regarding the provincial government's withdrawal from the Ring of Fire Regional Framework Agreement with Matawa First Nations and proposed changes to the Ontario Disability Support Program and Ontario Works.

"That was pretty powerful," Kastern says. "Sometimes, you have to be the one to ask the uncomfortable question. I wish her the best of luck and I also wish [Thunder Bay-Superior North NDP federal election candidate] Anna Betty Achneepineskum the best of luck — I would like to see an Indigenous woman to have an opportunity to be at those [federal government] tables."

Achneepineskum, a former deputy grand chief with Nishnawbe Aski Nation and a Marten Falls citizen, says the caucus meeting was an opportunity for NDP MPPs to meet with community leaders and citizens.

"This is the kind of platform and initiative that needs to continue," Achneepineskum says. "No matter where you represent an individual, you need to maintain that



Shuniah Mayor Wendy Landry, a Red Rock Indian Band citizen, speaks with provincial NDP leader Andrea Horwath during the NDP caucus meeting Community Leaders' Luncheon on Aug. 29 in Thunder Bay.

platform of communicating and hearing the concerns from the citizens. And that is what I feel is very important, and that is one of my values as well."

Horwath says the NDP MPPs heard a range of "very specific concerns" from community leaders and citizens during the caucus meeting.

"One of the overreaching and overarching issues is the lack of attention that northwestern Ontario gets," Horwath says. "The

most recent example is guns and gangs. For years, I have been coming to this community and hearing about what is happening in the social services sector. The resources aren't here and they are not being provided. It's about overall the fact that down south where all the decisions are made, there is very little attention paid to how those decisions impact northern Ontario and similarly how needs differ here than the needs in the south."

Point-of-sale PST exemption in Ontario: What you need to know

By Alex Hebert and Marci Becking (with files from Kevin Restoule)

STURGEON FALLS — Now that I'm old enough to make more purchases on my own, I'm also starting to use my Status Card more at stores. I mostly shop for video games since I'm only 13. But I know that when I grow up, I need to understand what the Status Card means when I give it to the person at the cash.

First, it isn't ALL the tax that is taken off. It is only the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) part of the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST). Some things like books only have the Goods and Services Tax (GST) so I wouldn't need my Status Cards for books.

Because of an agreement signed in 2010 between the Chiefs of Ontario and the provincial government that recognizes Ontario First Nation entitlement to tax exemption, a Status Card is all I need to buy games and other products without paying the 8% part of the HST.

Recently, I went to Walmart and I saw a sign that said that I have to show my Status Card BEFORE they start scanning the items. Grandma also told me that if you are using the self-checkout, you can ask the worker to put in the Status Card before you start scanning items. Good to know!

But what happens when you go to a smaller store that doesn't know about the Status Card exemption and they say no?

I found out that I can do a few things. First, I can just leave my stuff at the counter and walk away. I can then tell on them to the Ministry of Finance hotline 1-866-668-8297. You need to give the name of the store, store location and phone number. My mom knows

some adults who will call the hotline right while they are in the store!

So why don't some cashiers give the PST exemption? Sometimes it's a training issue and the cashier just might not know. Sometimes it's just the store not knowing or understanding that they are strongly encouraged to give the PST exemption. Sometimes they think that the purchase has to be delivered to a reserve, which is not the case.

Mom says also that, unfortunately, the store doesn't HAVE to give you the tax exemption, but in the interest of customer service, they should. First Nations people spend thousands of dollars every year at off-reserve businesses.

If I really want to buy something and they don't give me the exemption on the spot, I can keep the receipt and mail it to the Ministry of Finance to get the PST back. My mom says you can find some helpful information here: <https://www.anishinabek.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Refund-for-First-Nations.pdf>

You can send up to 100 receipts at a time and they can go as far back as four years.

Mom also tells me to never give my address or phone number to the cashier. All they need is your name, your First Nation and registration number right on the Status Card. They also don't need to photocopy your Status Card.

What about food? Take-out food counts as long as it's a meal over \$4. But you can't just show your Status Card for that. For this you have to keep the receipt and send it in. The KFC in Espanola will accept Status Cards, so support the KFC in Espanola when you're driving to Manitoulin Island!



Alex Hebert makes a purchase with his Status Card.

— Photo by Marci Becking

When I get older and pay for my own telecommunications like my cell phone, home phone, internet or cable, I can tell the company that I have a Status Card and they are supposed to take the PST off my bill. If for some weird reason they don't, then just keep your bills and send them in to the Ministry of Finance.

The other thing that should be pointed out, is to support on-reserve businesses whenever possible. Goods and services delivered to a reserve are exempt from paying the full 13% tax. Same with if you purchase things on-reserve, they are HST exempt.

Things bought online aren't PST exempt. There is a website though for getting the exemption, just click here: www.statusexempt.ca. You can read more about the man

from Curve Lake First Nation who started this app here: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/small-business/startups/article-fintech-startup-looks-to-expedite-tax-free-shopping-online-for-first/>

For more information on getting the PST exemption, visit the Anishinabek Nation website: <https://www.anishinabek.ca/anishinabek-nation/hst/>

Alex Hebert is a 13 year-old citizen of Dokis First Nation and attends White Woods Public School in Sturgeon Falls. At age seven, he was the designer of the world's first Treaty of Niagara LEGO wampum belt. His story is featured in the book "Alex Shares his Wampum Belt", which is available through the Anishinabek Nation Head Office.



Mosaadan Mino Bmaadiziwin

Walk the Good Life

Anishinabek Nation Health Conference

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JANUARY 21, 22, 23, 2020

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MaLynda Maness-Henry and Joanne Culley, Aamjiwnaang First Nation, with AN Grand Council Chief.

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Community Heroes in Health build capacity for our First Nation by empowering residents to become more active, healthy, and improve the overall well-being of the community. They are our team, our family and an important part of our community.



Laura McMeekin-Clark
Sagamok Anishinawbek, Physical
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Anishinabek Nation

Effective January 1, 2020, the Ontario Gas Card will be discontinued

WHAT IS NEW AS OF JANUARY 1, 2020?

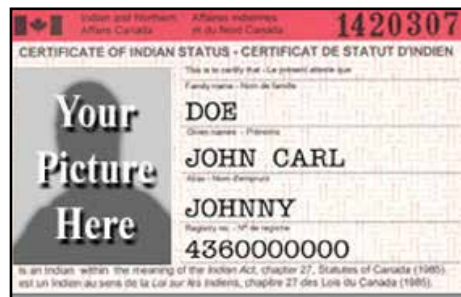
Instead of the Ontario Gas Card, First Nation people will be able to use their Indian Status card (Status card), which is issued by the Government of Canada, as proof of entitlement to buy gasoline exempt of Ontario gasoline tax.

First Nation individuals will be able to use the version of the card that they currently have in their possession (or may apply to the Government of Canada to obtain a Status card if they currently are not in possession of a Status card)

As proof of entitlement to buy tax-exempt gasoline at on-reserve retailers, First Nation individuals will use their:

- Certificate of Indian Status Card, including the laminated Certificate of Indian Status Card with no renewal date;
- Secure Certificate of Indian Status Card; or
- Temporary Confirmation of Registration Document
- Band councils, tribal councils, and band-empowered entities will use an Ontario-issued unique identifier number issued by the Ontario Ministry of Finance.

You can use this card:



Or this card:



Information provided to the Anishinabek Nation by the Ontario Ministry of Finance.

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- F** **ace** is it drooping?
- A** **rms** can you raise both?
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Act **F A S T** because the quicker you act, the more of the person you save.

heartandstroke.ca/FAST

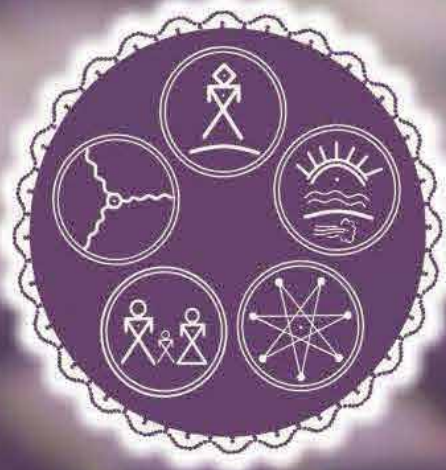
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Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement

25 Years in the Making



governancevote.ca