

Nbisiing Language and Culture Plan

It is an exciting and optimistic time for all Nbisiing Anishinaabeg. Our Debendaagziwaad (citizens) are coming together to collaborate on a new plan that will guide our language and cultural goals for the near future and into the next generation. Over the past few months, the Nipissing Nation has been working to develop a new *Language and Culture Strategic Plan* to guide our community in long-term operational planning by identifying priorities in four areas:

- Nbisiing Anishinaabemwin (Language)
- Nbisiing Culture
- Spirituality & Ceremonial Life
- History & Heritage

With the guidance of the Elders, language speakers, traditional people and leadership, we have held a number of community sessions to obtain input and priorities from the community, staff, committees and others.

The Strategic Planning process began in ceremony and with a tobacco offering and sharing circle where we heard from the Elders on the overall direction of the plan, as well as reinforcing its importance to our community.

Community engagement sessions were held in Duchesnay and Garden Village in April. In May, planning sessions were held with NFN managers and staff as well as the Culture and Pow-Wow Committee and the Anishinaabemwin Language Committee.

This plan will also make use of previous strategies developed over the years to come up with one consolidated plan to guide our collective efforts in language and culture.

Next Steps:

- An engagement session will be held in North Bay on June 11 from 6-9 p.m. at the North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre. We hope this session will gather input and feedback from local Debendaagziwaad (citizens) living off-reserve.
- An online survey has been launched to seek more ideas and priorities from NFN members, especially those Debendaagziwaad who are living away from our homelands. To access the survey: <https://goo.gl/forms/YBbfM5FOiSSlptiz1>
- Once completed, a draft Language and Culture Plan will be made available for comment, likely this summer or into the fall.
- The final Language and Culture Plan will be approved by Chief and Council for implementation by Band Administration, Managers and Staff through operational work planning processes.
- The Strategic Plan will be revisited and revised annually to reflect challenges, successes and realities.

We look forward to hearing from you further. If you have any ideas or priorities that you would like to share, contact Glenna Beaucage at (705) 753-2050 or email: glennab@nfn.ca. A survey is also available at <https://goo.gl/forms/YBbfM5FOiSSlptiz1>.



The Language & Culture Circle, the framework for the Strategic Plan.