

Gaa Bi Kidwaad Maa Nbisiing

The Histories of Nbisiing Nishnaabeg

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Since 2010, the purpose of our work together has been to document, collect, share, and preserve Nbisiing Nishnaabeg histories in ways that center Nishnaabeg ways of knowing, being, and understanding the past. We have centered the knowledge of Nbisiing historical experts and learned through relationship, to people, territory, and stories of the past held in various forms. We have listened to, recorded, and shared the diibajimowinan (everyday stories) and aadiskonaan (sacred stories) of Nbisiing held in families and communities by Nbisiing Elders and knowledge keepers, as well as in the documentary record (e.g. photographs, letters, petitions, newspapers). Through this storytelling and story listening, we hope to enhance understandings of the past and present on and off the territory in ways critical to Nishnaabeg resurgence, particularly a sense of identity and belonging necessary for mino bimaadiziwin. As Elders John Sawyer and Peter Beaucage have long reminded us, history is about identity and belonging. When you understand your history, you are better able to live well in the present and look to the future in a good way.

Key Objectives:

- Prioritize intergenerational teaching and learning relationships in research and in educational spaces
- Share knowledge in ways (curriculum, newsletters, exhibits, documentaries, presentations, publications) that support intergenerational relationships, generate understanding, pride, belonging, and identity, foster wellness and reconciliation
- Complete historical monograph
- Develop archival framework for long-term stewardship of Nbisiing Nishnaabeg historical knowledge by and for NFN



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