



KEB OFFICE AND EMPLOYEE UPDATES

As of September 7, 2021, the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body (KEB) head office is open to staff and scheduled visitors! The office is taking extra measures to keep employees, visitors, and the local community safe, especially as the Delta variant of COVID-19 continues to be a concern.

In late August and throughout the month of September, the KEB welcomed four new employees to its team!

Greer Atkinson - Regional Education Council Coordinator (REC #4)

Tracy Hanzlik - Data Management Officer

Zachary Beaudette - Language and Culture Lead

Starla Jamieson - Master Education Agreement Executive Assistant

Also in September, **Nancy O'Donnell** transitioned from the role of Regional Education Council Coordinator in Region 1 to the role of Multi-Year Action Plan Manager. In her new role, Nancy will join the KEB management team and lead the implementation of the 2021-2024 Multi-Year Action Plan, working closely with the Regional Education Councils (RECs) and the Participating First Nations (PFNs).

UPCOMING EVENTS

AES Chiefs Visioning Session and 23 Participating First Nations Gathering

Chiefs Visioning Session	23 PFN Gathering
November 22, 2021	November 23, 2021

Event details and agenda to follow.

2021 REC Fall Meetings

In keeping with previous years, the REC Fall Meetings will be hosted in each region throughout October. The first day of meetings will bring together the REC Representatives from each region, in tailored discussions that meet the priorities of the PFNs. The second day of meetings will invite local District School Board (DSB) to join the PFNs in ongoing discussions related to regional priorities and initiatives under the Multi-Year Action Plan.

REC #1	REC #2	REC #3	REC #4
October 7 (PFNs) October 8 (PFNs & DSBs)	October 13 (PFNs) October 14 (PFNs & DSBs)	October 20 (PFNs) October 21 (PFNs & DSBs)	October 27 (PFNs) October 28 (PFNs & DSBs)

ANISHINABEK EDUCATION SYSTEM GATHERING OF COLLEAGUES

On September 8, 2021, the KEB and the Ministry of Education's Indigenous Education Office hosted a virtual event called the AES Gathering of Colleagues. The brief session invited PFN and school board representatives to gather with the goal of supporting an enhanced understanding of the AES, encouraging communication amongst the partners, strengthening working relationships between the PFNs and school boards, and setting a positive foundation for continued work in the upcoming school year.

Coordinated in accordance with the Master Education Agreement and the Multi-Year Action Plan, this meeting was the first opportunity for many participants to meet AES colleagues and learn about the partnership between the AES and school boards. More than 80 colleagues joined in from 13 PFNs and 17 school boards.

ANEFTA NEGOTIATIONS

The negotiations have started with the Government of Canada for the next Anishinabek Nation Education Fiscal Transfer Agreement, which supports the renewal of funding beyond March 2023. Updates are provided regularly to the KEB Board of Directors and to the 23 PFNs at monthly REC meetings. At all meetings, the KEB negotiation team collects comments and direction from PFNs to support the negotiations with Canada.

The negotiators will be scheduling virtual meetings with PFNs throughout the fall and winter months, to hear directly from each community on:

- how your community is delivering education programs and services for your students,
- what your community is doing for early learning and adult learning, and
- your community's vision for learning, among other things.

The information collected by the KEB negotiation team will be used for the purpose of negotiating funding from the Government of Canada, and confidential information will be kept with the negotiation team. The next update to the PFNs will take place at the REC Fall Meetings in October and at the 23 PFN Gathering in November.

KEB BOARD AND STAFF RETREAT

Strategic planning and team building were the focus of a two-day retreat with KEB Board members and staff at the end of September. The KEB team met in retreat for the first time since July 2019, with Elder John Sawyer and facilitator Christine Rego guiding the team through several working sessions.

Board members and staff discussed a renewed vision and mission that will preface the proposed 5-year strategic plan for the AES and the KEB. Staff also broke out into separate sessions that fostered internal relationship building, policy reviews, and Anishinaabemowin language learning. The retreat closed on September 28, with a sharing circle for staff led by Elder John Sawyer and Zachary Beaudette, the KEB's new Language and Culture Lead.



Following the retreat, the Board of Directors will confirm a renewed vision and mission for the KEB that will help to finalize the draft strategic plan. Ongoing team building and professional development will also be continued with KEB staff in virtual meetings throughout the year.

AES APPLICATION TO THE ONTARIO TEACHERS PENSION PLAN

The KEB has been exploring the opportunity of joining the Ontario Teachers Pension Plan (OTPP), which is Canada's largest single-profession pension plan that benefits Ontario Certified Teachers (OCT). Membership to the OTPP provides a significant incentive for teacher recruitment and retention.

This initiative was brought forward as a regional priority in REC #1, however many other communities throughout the AES are also interested in the opportunity. The KEB is now looking to consult with the PFNs to complete the requirements of the Application for Designation, and to collect the required data and information for the application.

The financial management requirements of the OTPP are specific and the KEB is compiling several considerations for further discussion with the PFNs. The deadline to complete the Application for Designation is April 30, 2022, for potential implementation in September 1, 2022. Further information and details on the OTPP Application for Designation will be presented at the 23 PFN Gathering in November 2021.

AES CAPITAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The AES Capital Needs Assessment has been ongoing since December 2020 and is anticipated to be completed by March 2022. The KEB's consultant, First Nations Engineering Services Ltd., is now in the process of drafting individual reports for the PFNs. These reports include the capital needs findings for each community, which are determined based on the information provided to the KEB throughout the data collection phase (ACRS reports, O & M costs, bussing information, facility planning, population and enrollment data, etc).

The project consultants will meet with representatives of each community over the next several months to review and confirm their individual capital needs assessments. A final summative report will then be developed for the AES, which will identify overall capital needs requirements over 5, 10, and 15 years. The report will include the following elements:

- Background Information
- ACRS Report Summaries
- Population Projections
- Asset Condition Report (Additional Facilities)
- Enrolment Projections
- School Space Requirements
- Facility Development Alternatives
- First Nation Consultation Summary
- Cost Estimates
- Recommended Capital Development Plan

2021-2022 NIIGAN GDIZHAAMI FUND

The 2021-2022 call for proposals for the Niigan Gdizhaami Fund received overwhelming interest from the PFNs. Now in its fourth year of administration, the fund will support 25 new projects and initiatives within the AES this academic year. Each of the projects support the Fund's objectives, which is to support and invest in community and joint projects, that advance the objectives of the Master Education Agreement.

25

projects funded
in the 2021-2022
school year.

12

joint projects with
school boards and
third parties

TRENDING PROJECTS

Language Revitalization - Anishinaabe Foundations of Learning - Student Support

MULTI-YEAR ACTION PLAN 2021-2024

On September 1, 2021, a new three-year work plan came into effect to support the ongoing implementation of the Master Education Agreement between the PFNs, the Ministry of Education, and the KEB. Many of the projects outlined in the first Multi-Year Action Plan will continue to progress throughout the next three years, while several new projects will also be initiated at various times.

In addition to specific projects and initiatives, the Multi-Year Action Plan supports advisory groups and working committees that focus on special education, data, research and evaluation, human rights/anti racism, and language and culture.

Since 2017, the Master Education Agreement has enabled collaboration and engagement between the Anishinabek Education System and the provincially-funded education system that drive positive student outcomes and create space for relationship-building between PFNs and Ontario District School Boards.