



Niijaansinaanik

Child and Family Services

Alternative Care Newsletter



Septemeber 2020

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Mdaamin Güzis

Corn Moon





Cultural Connections

Traditional Family Roles

To explore the roles of Men we need to take a look at the other roles that surround Men (Women, Children, Elders) and how they relate and establish balance in our families. The most important guidance and direction comes from our Elders (Men & Women). We rely on their lifetime experiences, including their successes and challenges. We require their life experience, as they have charted the course that we have taken towards our destiny as a people.

The woman are the life-givers of our Nation. They are the nurturers of our children and communities. Healthy home environment, family violence prevention and child welfare are just some of their most important issues. The children are of critical importance because they are a reflection of ourselves. The work we do in the present,

is left for them in the future. Our work today is for the Seventh Generation. Environment, education and health care are some of their most important issues.

Men are the keepers of the fire for our families and community. We rely on men to provide for the families of our communities. Our men must protect our women and children as well as teach the young men how to be role models by being better ones themselves. To do this, Men need the help of our women to bring balance to the family and their path. The balance of male/female is an important part of any family. It is important to look at the origin of creation to begin to understand our roles as the human family. Each Nation has it's own journey and story of how they came to be.. and we have ours.



All My Relations,
Perry McLeod Shabogesic

Every Child Matters

Every Child Matters - *Every Day*. On September 30th, each year, people across Canada wear their orange shirts to honour, discuss and remember those who attended Residential Schools. This day is a teaching day for everyone to learn about the history and generational impacts of those schools. *Our AC Workers will be dropping off shirts for the children in the family before September 30th.



Videos, games and information from CBC Kids can be found [here](#). A free t-shirt to print and colour can be downloaded [here](#). These resources are meant to be used with an adult, and to invite discussion on the history of Residential Schools, how children matter *every day* and how they deserve to feel safe and comfortable at school.

“ Try to be a rainbow, in someone else's cloud.

Maya Angelou

Heart & Spirit

HEART and SPIRIT are new tools developed and validated by the Association of Native Child and Family Services Agencies of Ontario (ANCFSAO) as an integrated caregiver assessment and pre-service training model. These tools were developed as culturally appropriate alternatives to SAFE and PRIDE, for use when approving foster parents (including kinship care), customary caregivers, and prospective adoptive parents for Indigenous children and youth. They are intended to engage and train potential caregivers in a way that supports and nurtures the cultures, heritages and identities of Indigenous children and youth.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCCSS) has issued a policy directive under section 42 of the CYFSA approving the use of HEART and SPIRIT as an alternative to SAFE and PRIDE. This policy directive came into effect on July 7, 2020. The process began with Mnaasged Child and Family Services' development of the program before it was purchased by ANCFSAO and taken through the validation process and with the Ministry and updated as required. This process included piloting the program with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous agencies. The program involves the Helping Establish Able Resource-Homes Together (HEART) engagement component, the Strong Parent Indigenous Relationships Information Training (SPIRIT) piece, and the Indigenous Family Development Assessment (IFDA) tool. Agencies may now use this program as an alternative to SAFE and PRIDE.

We are thrilled to deliver this news to our prospective and current caregivers.



The Indigenous Diabetes Health Circle and Anishinabek Nation Invites Front Line Workers to:

Traditional Parenting and Family Wellness Virtual Workshop Series

Dates:

Featuring:

September 22, 2020
9:00am – 3:00pm

September 29, 2020
9:00am – 12:00pm

October 6, 2020
9:00am – 12:00pm

October 13, 2020
9:00am – 12:00pm

• Elder Mary Elliot from Atikameksheng Anishinawbek & Grand Daughter Gracie Mandamin (Traditional Parenting, Star Teaching – Rights of Passage)



Participants will receive a Gestational Diabetes Facilitator Kit and Wellness Bundle as well as resources for community



• Autumn Watson, Diabetes Wellness Worker Featured Speaker



Participants who complete the entire series will receive an IDHC certificate of completion.

• Tracy Johnston & Lynda Gerow (Two-Spirited Parenting and Reclaiming Spaces)



Register by August 24th to receive workshop resources in advance of session 1.

Registration Link : <https://soadi.wufoo.com/forms/z1jkwms20odjs6f/>

• Cody McGregor (Father & Partner Roles and Responsibilities)



For more information, contact: Krista Ruthven at training@idhc.life or 289-929-4544

• Kerry Bebee (Indigenous Midwifery and Gestational Diabetes Teachings)



[Click Here for Registration](#)

***Open to Caregivers!**

New Staff Announcement

Welcome to the team!



The new Alternative Care Manager is Carrie Tabobondung, MSW, from Wasauksing First Nation. Carrie's career in the child welfare sector has been extensive over 30 plus years. She took a break after moving back to Wasauksing where she lived in her late husband's community for 20 years. The opportunity to work for the communities she started working with early in her career was the key. Carrie enjoys sharing her knowledge and experience and building capacity with the First Nations that form Niijaansinaanik. Carrie has 2 sons Myles and Skye and enjoys family time and nurturing those relationships that are building blocks to healthy Anishnabe family living.



Alternative Care Supervisor Joanne Morrison is from Kebeowek First Nation in Kipawa Que. Joanne has a B.A in Psychology, diploma in Native Social Services, and is a certified Traumatologist. Joanne has over 20 years experience working with Indigenous communities and providing support to our families. Joanne enjoys spending time with her family and has two adult children - a daughter and son, and one granddaughter. She is passionate about working at our Agency and strongly believes in their philosophy of operating around a Cultural-Based Service Model framed around caring for our children, and based on *Mino Bimaadiziwin* – our Elders the Clan system and Accountabilities, culturally restorative practices and the seven Grandfather teachings will help build strong communities and healthy families.

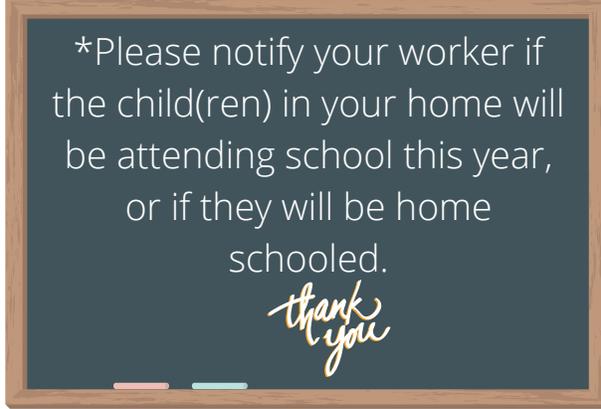


Customary Care Coordinator Merle McLeod is originally from Moose Factory, Ont. Merle is a recent graduate from Nipissing University, from the Honours Bachelor of Social Work program. He also has a Social Service Worker diploma from Canadore College. Merle has over 20 years of experience in working with youth and children from the education field to the social work field. Merle is a single father raising three girls, which he loves spending time with, if it be camping, fishing, road trips or just a spontaneous adventure. Merle is a new employee to the Niijaansinaanik Child and Family Service and is dedicated and very passionate about his new role. Merle strongly believes that the process of Customary Care procedure will strengthen the family unit and benefit the community, for procedure recognizes that each First Nation defines what customary care is for its own community. Also, it strengthens the linkage between families living on- and off-reserve helping to ensure that the circle of care for First Nation children remains a constant in their lives, regardless of where they may live.

Attending School & Homeschooling Information

Many schools and school boards issued notices with surveys for parents and caretakers to complete during the month of August. If you did not have an opportunity to complete this, or wish to view it please contact the school for direction. School boards have issued School Re-Entry Information Sheets regarding the health, safety and well-being of students, staff and families as they re-open schools for the year. The Near North District School Board Re-Entry Information Sheet from August 11, 2020, can be found [here](#). You can also visit the Near North District School Board website at: www.nearnorthschools.ca.

For those with children who will be home schooled, financial support may be available from the government of Ontario, deadline to apply is August 31, 2020. For more information click [here](#), or visit www.ontario.ca/page/get-support-families for more information.



[Click here for the Ontario's Action Plan in response to COVID-19.](#)

[Click here for the Ontario News Release on Opening Schools for the 2020-21 year.](#)



Giziiyaabide'o -They brush their teeth



Ozhibii'ige - They write



Miigwech to Joshua Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley for sharing his images with us. Pawis-Steckley is an Ojibwe woodland artist from Barrie, ON. He is a member of Wasauksing First Nation.

Contact us

We love to hear from you.

Your role as caregiver is crucial in many aspects. Thank you for choosing your role and making a sincere difference in the lives of many. Thank you for believing in our Agency and helping keep Indigenous, Métis and Inuit children in our/your communities. Together we can provide positive and healthy experiences for children and youth, who can grow up with true and strong connections.

 Miigwech!



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