



# Niijaansinaanik

Child and Family Services

## Alternative Care Newsletter



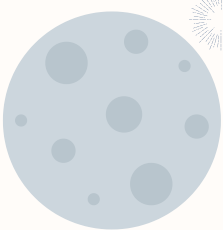
### November 2021

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### Mnidoons Güzisoohg

Little Spirit  
Moon





# Cultural Connections

*Biboon - Winter*

*A time of gathering and healing*

Ahniin, Boozhoo Kina Weya,

Baashkaakodin Giizis - Freezing Moon. November is also known as, Gashkadino Giizis, Frozen Over Moon. Another name for this time is Mnidoons Giizisoonhg - Little Spirit Moon. Depending on what part of Anishinaabek country you come from. A time of healing. It is also time to be with family and friends and to share the good and positive energy with those we love and care for.

It's November and Biboon (winter) will soon arrive bringing a blanket of snow to cover our Mother Earth. The massive flights of geese flying south are a sure sign that winter is coming.

Hunters are out scouting grounds to locate and estimate the population of the larger animals like moose and deer. It is the time to hunt, prepare and store enough game so that the families can survive the coming winter. Berries, fruits and other foods have been dried and stored plus firewood cut and gathered into a high pile close to home. All is made ready for the Gisinaa – the cold. The days are getting shorter and the nights longer. Storytellers now begin their important task of telling historical family and clan stories. Biboon – winter is starting to blow through the villages it's chilly breeze.

Na'how, Miigwetch,  
Culture Team

## AC Home Children's Christmas Party



Saturday, December 11, 2021



*Your Worker will contact you with details for a holiday gathering.*

## Alternative Care Home Monthly Activity

Miigwetch for your participation in the monthly activities we have been posting in our newsletter! We were so happy to see our Alternative Caregivers sharing photos of their carved pumpkins from last's month's activity. Wow! They all looked amazing. The random draw winner for the pumpkin carving will be on Nov 5, and the winner will be notified, by their worker. We look forward to having monthly activities if you have any ideas please feel free to share with your worker. For this month, we invite you to come up with a fun family night and submit a drawing/collage based on the activity.

Please submit by Nov 26., and the draw will be on Dec 3.

### Last Month's AC Home Activity



WOW

## Gidapiitendaagoz

*You are important*

*Empowered Youth Development Initiative*

# AC Home - Rock Your Mocs Event

**November 15, 2021**



This year, Alternative Care would like to invite your home to share a photo of you and your family rockin' their mocs (*Moccasins only please*), as part of Rock Your Mocs Day. You can send this to your worker, or you can submit a photo of a completed colouring of Rock your Mocs.

Rock Your Mocs, is a worldwide Native American and Indigenous Peoples social media event held annually and during National Native American Heritage Month in the U.S. A. Rock Your Mocs was created and has continued for: *"We, as Indigenous people stand united through our tribal individuality, symbolically wear our moccasins, honor our ancestors, and indigenous peoples worldwide, during Rock Your Mocs and National Native American Heritage Month."* (RockYourMocs.org)

## Children / Youth Corner

**ROCK  
YOUR  
MOCS!**



[Click here for a colouring page.](#)

Send in a photo of the completed drawing to your Worker to be entered into a draw. Please send in by November 20, 2021. Happy Colouring!

## AC Home Training Opportunities

### First Aid / CPR

For Homes with Children under 2 Years old

North Bay  
November 15 & 16  
(2 Day Training)  
2 Seats Available

North Bay  
November 20 & 21  
(2 Day Training)  
7 Seats Available

North Bay  
November 29 & 30  
(2 Day Training)  
4 Seats Available

Contact your Worker for registration.

## Pre-Service Training

Congratulations to our new AC homes that have just completed their Pre-Service training in October!

Our next upcoming Heart & Spirit Pre-Service Training will be:

Location TBD  
January 22 & 23  
January 29, 30

Heart  
& SPIRIT





**Niijaansinaanik**  
Child and Family Services

# Alternative Care Family Fall Gathering 2021

Sat, November 20, 2021  
North Bay, ON  
10a.m.-3p.m.

Sat, November 27, 2021  
Location TBD  
10a.m.-3p.m.

Niijaansinaanik Alternative Caregivers, children and youth are invited for a day of hunting teachings, food, drumming, singing and shaker making/crafts.



See you there!

Your worker will contact you, to notify you which location you are to attend.

*You are welcome to bring your feast bundle, folding chair, or drums, if you have them.*

\*Please notify your Worker if there are food restrictions.

## Prevention Conference - Maamwi Gdoo-Bwaajigemin

Prevention is a cornerstone of services and programs offered to homes and families with Niijaansinaanik. Niijaansinaanik held its inaugural Prevention Conference on Wednesday, October 27 & Thursday, October 28, 2021, in North Bay, ON., at the Best Western Conference Centre.

There were attendees from each of the First Nations we serve, keynote speakers, Agency Presentations, and cultural teachings. The Keynote Speakers were Dr. Kathy Absolon, Bernadette Maracle, and Adrienne Pelletier. Elder Joyce Tabobondung opened the conference, and the Niijaansinaanik Prevention Services team sang the closing ceremony traveling song. Over the two days, many workshops were offered including Universal Sacred Shell/ Slow n' Steady, Customary Care / Kinship., Jordan's Principle, Traditional Parenting Workshop, and the Every Child Matters Craft with Liz Taylor.

Due to provincial regulations and capacity limits of the venue, we worked to keep the event small. Next year we hope to open to more participants.

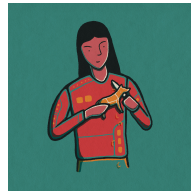


### Call to Care, Care to Call

Do you know someone interested in learning more about becoming an Alternative Caregiver? Niijaansinaanik has offices in each first nation, and our staff is always here to answer any questions you may have. You can contact our Trainer/Recruiter, Lillian Couchie at 1-855-223-5558., or at [lillian.couchie@nijcfs.com](mailto:lillian.couchie@nijcfs.com). Your Worker is happy to answer any questions you may have as well. Miigwech for helping our children and youth stay in their communities!



**Bimise - It flies along.**



**Mookodaaso- They/He/She carves, whittles, planes (wood).**

*Illustrations: Joshua Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley*

## Contact us

We love to hear from you.

Your role as a caregiver is crucial in many aspects. Thank you for choosing to be a care provider 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.



**1-855-223-5558**

Miigwech!



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