

Ganawendaawaso Biidaajimowin Mazinigan

"Alternative Care Newsletter"



Bnaakwii Giizis

Falling Leaves Moon

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Cultural Connections

Bnaakwii Giizis - Falling Leaves Moon

Full Moon: October 25, 2026



THE FALLING LEAVES MOON REMINDS US TO
LET GO, JUST AS TREES RELEASE THEIR LEAVES
TO BLANKET MOTHER EARTH FOR HER WINTER
REST. ANIMALS ALSO PREPARE TO REST OR
SURVIVE THE WINTER.

ELDER AUDREY TABOBONDUNG RECALLS THAT,
WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG, THIS WAS A TIME TO
GATHER FOOD FOR THE PANTRY AND
CUPBOARDS, TWIGS AND FIREWOOD, AND
CLOTHING FOR WINTER.

IT WAS A TIME TO GATHER EVERYTHING.



OFFICE CLOSURE

October 12 - Miigwechwe-Giizhgad - "Thanksgiving"

SORRY

we're

CLOSED

today

UPCOMING DATES of OBSERVANCE

MMIWG2S+
National Day of Action for
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women and Girls
October 4, 2025



Today, and all days, we honour
and remember the missing and
murdered indigenous women,
girls, and gender diverse peoples.

We hold space and lay semaa
for the survivors and families
members affected.

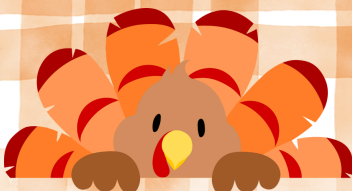
safe-passage.ca
mmiwg-ffada.ca



Nijjaansinaanik
Child and Family Services

**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING**

MIIGWECHWE-GIIZHGAD



OCTOBER 12



This year, on **October 29th**,
communities across Ontario will go
purple and collectively speak up to
share the message that children and
youth have a right to safety and well-
being and that help is available.

For information and
resources go to:
oacas.org

**DRESS
PURPLE
DAY**

**TASEWAN
HALLOWEEN**



October 31st



ALTERNATIVE CARE UPCOMING TRAINING

To attend any training, please register at registration@nijcfs.com or call: 1 (855) 223-5558

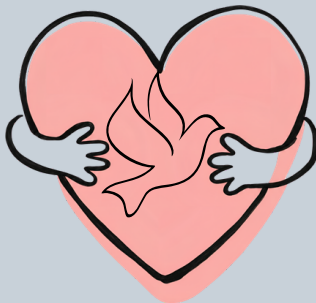
Spirit Pre-Service

(9:00 am - 4:00 pm)

October 3-4

October 17-18

Location: 128 McIntyre St W
North Bay, ON



Non-Violent Crisis

Intervention

(9:00 am - 5:00 pm)

October 24-25

Location: Holiday Inn
1696 Regent Street, Sudbury, ON

Standard First Aid + CPR C Class

North Bay

Sudbury

October 1-2

October 5-6

October 19-20

October 1-2

October 13-14

October 19-20

October 28-29

Location: 955 Stockdale Road, Unit 104
North Bay, ON

One-Day Renewal

Hosted by St. John's Ambulance
8:30am - 4:30pm

North Bay

Sudbury

October 13
November 10
November 19

October 22
November 26
December 17

NOTE:

For renewal you cannot have expired

Car Seat Safety

Training

Parry Sound

(1:00 am - 3:00 pm)

October 20

Location: 10 Miller Street,
Parry Sound, ON



Did you know?



All training listed here is part of the Mandatory Licensing Requirement

ALTERNATIVE CARE ACTIVITIES

CHILDREN'S COLOURING

Prize: \$25 Dollarama Gift Card

Submission Date: October 25, 2026

Draw Date: October 28, 2026



How many Black Cats did you find?



ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY

 Can You Find the Hidden Black Cats? 

The Black Cat is hiding throughout the newsletter, and it's your job to find them all!

 Look carefully through each page and count how many Black Cats you can spot.

 Write your final number in the box provided.

 When you're finished, take a picture of your answer and send it to your worker.

Good luck, and happy hunting! 

Prize: \$25 Walmart Gift Card

Submission Date: October 25, 2026

Draw Date: October 28, 2026

ALTERNATIVE CARE ACTIVITIES

BUILD A HALLOWEEN CANDY BUCKET

Cut out the shapes below. Glue them together to build your very own candy bucket! Place the candy bucket onto construction paper to add a fun colorful background.



BANNOCK & TEA



In partnership with
N'Swakamok Indigenous
Friendship Centre, FASD Team



**BREAKING
NEWS**

BANNOCK & *TEA* is BACK!!!

*Draw for
55" Phillips TV*

DATE: MONDAY OCTOBER 26, 2026

TIME: 11:00AM - 1:00PM

Must be in
Attendance to WIN, the TV

Register

NOW @

regsitration@niijcfs.com

RESPIRE & EMERGENCY CARE

OPEN YOUR HEART. SHARE YOUR HOME.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES. PROTECTING CHILDREN. RESTORING PEACE OF MIND.

BE THE CALM IN A CHILD'S STORM

When a family faces a sudden crisis—a medical emergency, extreme stress, or an unexpected hardship—their children need a safe, nurturing place to land. Our communities are in urgent need of compassionate individuals and families who can open their doors to provide short-term, immediate care when a child needs it most.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Wellbeing Support:

Provide a stable, calm environment that protects a child's emotional and physical wellbeing during times of high uncertainty.

Emergency Placements:

Be the on-call sanctuary for children who need immediate, temporary housing during a sudden family crisis.

Urgent Respite Care:

Welcome a child into your home for a few hours, a weekend, or up to a few weeks to give parents space to stabilize.

FULL AGENCY SUPPORT PROVIDED

- Provide training and educational opportunities.
- In-home support between the Alternative Caregiver and the child/youth.
- 24-Hour Support.
- Financial support and compensation for extra-curricular activities, sports etc.
- Opportunities to participate in cultural activities.
- Provide resources to meet the needs of the child/youth.
- Monthly Alternative Caregiver Newsletter.



TAKE THE FIRST STEP



Contact a member of the Ganwendaawaso (Alternative Care) Team at: **(705) 763-2000** or go to **niijcfs.com** and click on the “*Become an Alternative Caregiver*” button for more info.



HALLOWEEN SAFETY

Preparing for a Fun Evening of Trick-or-Treating: A Guide for Parents with Autistic Children

Planning & Priming

Plan for:

- Sensory-friendly and comfortable costumes.
- Early hours when streets are less crowded, quiet street, or trunk-or-treat events

Prime by:

- Visiting familiar locations
- Practicing trick-or-treating
- Use visuals to create social stories



Be Mindful of Sensory Overload

- Consider using noise-cancelling headphones
- Take sensory breaks
- Know the triggers. i.e. If a child is sensitive to flashing lights or loud noises, avoid approaching homes with those elements.



Safety First!

- Always ensure your child has adult supervision
- Wear reflective elements or add reflective tape for visibility in the dark
- Have children wear ID bracelets or temporary tattoos with your contact information
- If your child has allergies, make sure to carefully check all candy ingredients



Post-Trick-or-Treating Routine

- Review the Experience: Talk to your child about their Halloween experience. Discuss what they enjoyed and what might have been hard for them.
- Wind Down: Help your child transition back to their regular routine with calming activities like a warm bath or reading their favorite book.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY

Spooky Statistics



Children are

4x

more likely to be involved in a fatal pedestrian accident on Halloween, than any other night.



Only

18%

of parents use reflective tape on their children's Halloween costumes.



12%

of children ages 5 and younger are permitted to trick-or-treat alone.

1:4

have met a new neighbor for the first time on Halloween.



Trick-or-Treat Safety Tips

"BeWARE the overshare."

Refrain from sharing Halloween plans on social media. Social Media savvy burglars have been known to take advantage of homes when people are away.

Only approach houses with porch lights on.

NEVER go inside a strangers home!



Always walk with a parent or approved adult.

No child under 12 years of age should trick-or-treat without an adult.

Stay on sidewalks.

Refrain from cutting across yards or alleys.

Cross the street in groups.

Always cross at designated crosswalks.



Toss away any unwrapped candy

unless approved by a parent.



Wear BRIGHT, reflective costumes

and no low hanging fabric that children can trip on.

Make sure someone in the group has a cell phone

in the event of an emergency.



INDIGENOUS YOUTH HOCKEY DAY

Sunday, October 18, 2026



VS



NORTH BAY BATTALION

NIAGARA ICE DOGS



**PUCK DROPS
@
2:00 pm**

**FREE ADMISSION
FOR CARE PROVIDERS &
FAMILIES**

Contact your worker to find out how to get your tickets!
PLEASE NOTE: EACH REGISTERED HOUSEHOLD IS ELIGIBLE FOR ONE
TICKET PER PERSON.

SAVE THE DATE



WIISINAADAA! LETS EAT

Jam



Ingredients:

- 3 pounds fruit, cut into 1-inch chunks if large, stone fruit pitted
- 1 ½ pounds sugar (3 ⅓ cups)
- Coarse salt
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

Directions:

Mix fruit, sugar, and salt:

Stir together fruit, sugar, and 1/4 teaspoon salt in a large heavy-bottomed pot.

Boil and mash:

Bring to a boil, stirring until sugar is dissolved and mashing fruit with a potato masher.

Add lemon juice and boil:

Add lemon juice; continue to boil, stirring frequently, until bubbles slow, chunks of fruit show at top, and mixture clings to a spoon but falls off in clumps, 10 to 12 minutes. Skim foam from top.

Transfer to containers:

Ladle jam into clean containers, leaving 3/4 inch of headroom. Let cool completely and cover.



How Long Does Homemade Jam Last?

Our homemade jam will last up to one month in the refrigerator and one year in the freezer. Be sure to store it in an airtight jar and add a dated label. Do not store it in the pantry unless you have properly canned the jam.



Anishinaabemdaa! -Let's speak Ojibway

Saanaan-----	firewood
Saadan-----	cut firewood
Saanaan woonaadin-----	Go get wood
Biiskoonyan sinaangat niin goojing-----	get dressed it is cold outside!
Baashkimasigan-----	jam, preserves
Saanaan-----	firewood
Saadan-----	cut firewood
Saanaan woonaadin-----	Go get wood
Biiskoonyan sinaangat niin goojing-----	get dressed it is cold outside!
Baashkimasigan-----	jam, preserves

AFTER-HOURS



After-Hours

Our After-Hours Service Workers are responsible for providing after-hours and weekend crisis services, responding to allegations of child maltreatment, and providing immediate protective services when required.

The After-Hours Service Worker's role is to defuse crises and stabilize events that occur outside of regular agency hours until cases can be assumed by regular day staff.

We are always here to help 24 hours a day
7 days a week.

To contact After-Hours please call:

1-855-223-5558



Service Areas





OCTOBER 2026 CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

RSVP: registration@nijcfs.com

YOUTH HUNT 
CAMP

Spirit Point
Wilderness Academy and Camp



ALL MEALS PROVIDED

AGES 13+

OCTOBER 1-3, 2026
MINK LAKE ROAD, TROUT CREEK, ON

Contact your worker
1-855-223-5558

REQUIRED REGISTRATION

****SPACE IS LIMITED****



CRAFT NIGHT
LET'S MAKE BEADED EARRINGS!



WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 7, 2026
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
140 ELMWOD AVE
NORTH BAY, ON

 **Nijjaansinaanik**
Child and Family Services

 **1-855-223-5558**

ALL SUPPLIES & DINNER PROVIDED

REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Contact your worker to register



SEPT 2026 CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

RSVP: registration@niijcfs.com



OCTOBER 17, 2026



10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

*Contact your
Worker to register*



-  LUNCH PROVIDED
-  LIMITED SPACE
-  FEES COVERED
-  TRANSPORTATION MUST BE ARRANGED WITH YOUR WORKER

1-855-223-5558

Ribbon Skirt

Workshop

NORTH BAY

*Choose your
location*

PARRY SOUND



Tuesday October 20, 2026

4:00 - 8:00 pm

RIBBON VEST WORKSHOP

YOU CHOOSE

NORTH BAY

PARRY SOUND



Wednesday October 21, 2026

4:00 - 8:00 pm



*Register
Now*

**All programs
require
registration.**