

FALL 2020

## MAMOW OBIKI-AHWAHSOOWIN

EVERYONE WORKING TOGETHER TO RAISE OUR CHILDREN

LL° DVb., dq., dv., a

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#### **OUR MODEL**

Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin is the Tikinagan service model. In Ojibway/Oji-Cree, Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin means, "Everyone working together to raise our children." It is a system of protecting and caring for children and supporting families that has been designed and is delivered by First Nations people.

#### **OUR VISION**

The Creator entrusted First
Nations with the sacred
responsibility of protecting our
children and developing strong
families and healthy
communities. The Chiefs
created Tikinagan to support
and strengthen our children,
our families, and our
communities. The future of our
communities is our children.

#### TIKINAGAN.ORG

For more information, career opportunities, or to become a Foster Parent, visit tikinagan.org.

## FOSTER CONNECTION. BECOME A FOSTER PARENT

We need caring Indigenous
Foster Homes and Foster
Parents in the Thunder Bay
district to care for children. We
are looking for people who
support Mamow Obikiahwahsoowin, the Tikinagan
service model.

#### REMEMBERING TIKINAGAN'S LEADERS





William Mothing & Tommy Fiddler

This summer, Tikinagan mourned the loss of two important contributors to the agency's legacy, William J. Nothing and Tommy Fiddler.

Remembered as a visionary and negotiator for Tikinagan and many other First Nation organizations in northwestern Ontario, Nothing laid the foundation for our agency. Nothing negotiated a ground breaking memorandum that First Nations Chiefs signed in Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation in 1984, which was the founding event for Tikinagan.

From there, Nothing stayed with Tikinagan as Board Chair, and later become Executive Director for a short stint, to help guide Tikinagan through its development stages.

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Nothing's leadership and vision was instrumental in the creation and development of the agency. Tikinagan Executive Director, Thelma Morris, says his vision endures.

"The legacy of our William J. Nothing lives on everyday in the work we do to keep our children connected to our communities, culture, and families. Our communities are empowered because of the work that was done more than 35 years ago under his leadership. And he didn't do it for himself. He did it all for the people of NAN."

Likewise, Fiddler's commitment to Tikinagan's vision was a valuable asset, especially in his strong belief in finding the answers and solutions within the communities we serve.

Tikinagan benefited greatly from Tommy's expertise and guidance and we are thankful for his dedication to improving services at the community level. Tommy truly cared for the children and families we serve. He was an honourable man, as evident through his compassion, humility and acceptance of everyone.

Fiddler is remembered for his dedicated service on our Board of Directors as a Board Member, serving four consecutive terms from 2001 to 2009.

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## HONOUR THE HEALING JOURNEY

COMMIT TO RECONCILIATION



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SURVIVORS. POST YOUR ORANGE SHIRT PHOTO & USE #ICOMMITOSD





#### TIKINAGAN LAUNCHES WEEKLY RADIO SHOW

This month, Tikinagan is launching a new weekly radio show "Kahkenuh Aweyuk: Everyone Together on Tik Talk Radio" broadcasting on the Wawatay Radio Network every Tuesday and Thursday at 2 pm.

"We are excited to introduce regular, weekly programming on Wawatay an extension to the work we do in bringing everyone together," said Tikinagan Executive Director, Thelma Morris, who will kick-off the new show in the inaugural episode on Tuesday, September 15. "Our work is driven by Mamow Obikiahwahsoowin, everyone working together to raise our children, and it is under this banner that we want to bring communities together to help them learn about our services, community stories and events, and much more."

Tikinagan is not new to radio in First Nation communities. The agency has been using the radio as early as the mid-80s when Tikinagan and Wawatay were both in their infancy stages.

Said Morris: "In the North, the radio is still an essential communication tool for our people, especially in reaching the Elders. The communities use the radio to play games and have fun, as well as communicate messages to the community. This is a tradition we want to be apart of."

Morris adds that along with information about Tikinagan services and events, the show will honour the language with most broadcasts spoken in English and Oji-Cree.

"Language is the keystone to cultural identity and to the preservation of culture. We strive to communicate effectively using our First Nation languages, both verbally and in written materials, with the children, families and communities we serve."

For program updates, schedules, and past episodes, follow Tikinagan Child & Family Services on Facebook or visit tikinagan.org.

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Kahkenuh Aweyuk
"Everyone Together"
on Tik Talk Radio

TUNE IN EVERY WEEK TUESDAY & THURSDAY

AT 2PM ON WAWATAY RADIO





# Leaving Their Mark Since 1990

When Marie Hudson started her career with Tikinagan Child & Family Services as an optimistic, unwittingly the 35-year-old in September 1990 thought she was accepting a temporary reception position.

Now, 30 years later, wise and experienced, she's still in the same chair.

"When I applied, it was to cover the person who was on maternity leave," explains Hudson, a Bearskin Lake First Nation band member. "I was supposed to be there for a couple of weeks until they found someone permanent. I never heard back from anyone after that. I suppose that was my hiring day when I arrived here."

Based out of the Sioux Lookout office, Hudson recalls her first week as a "hectic time" by learning on the go after a 15-minute orientation. Not only was she overwhelmed by the number of calls, but the size of the phone and the number of buttons were daunting. Back then, she recalls handling as many as 400 calls in one day.

But Hudson did more than answer and redirect calls. She tells of her experience as a Case Aide Worker, traveling to several of Tikinagan's First Nation communities.

"I got to travel by vans, cars, and airplanes to pickup parents and children to where they needed to go," Hudson explains.

Hudson has also kept busy as a Foster Parent, supporting teenagers in difficult times and sharing many positive memories.

"I liked looking after teenagers, some even wanted me to adopt them. It was busy doing this, it's like you have extra children to take care of. It was never boring. It was fun and hard at times."

Thirty years ago, Caroline Derouin moved from Weagamow Lake First Nation to Sioux Lookout to support her children's education with the hopes of finding a career where she could work with children.

Her friends invited her to check out Tikinagan Child & Family Services. Deroruin has enjoyed it ever since.

"I really enjoy working with children, and that's where I was most of my career," reflects Derouin. "To be able to make a

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difference for a child — by something you said, something you did, you encouraged them.

"That was the main reason I joined Tikinagan, because I wanted to help kids and be around kids. They're so full of life and kids are so precious, each one of them."

Starting her career with Tikinagan as a File Clerk at the age of 31, Derouin was encouraged to take on different roles in the agency, including as a Child Care Worker.

"I think there's opportunities at Tikinagan, because I started as a File Clerk and then they realized I was doing so well with communicating with people, that they encouraged me to try another position."

Over the last three decades, Derouin says there have been many improvements to the way to office work is done.

"The biggest change I think was compared to all the stuff we had to use, like paper, writing everything down, paper files, even the typewriters. We had these great big typewriters and printers, and there was, like, mounds and mounds of paper! Nowadays, everything is on your cellphone. We work at home now.

"It's a big difference. You can go anywhere now, do anything now. Compared to before, you had to be tied to a phone."

Derouin's advice to new Tikinagan employees is to be mindful of the main goal, which is working with children.

"I think you need to focus on what you're doing. I just found no matter what you're doing with Tikinagan just one goal is for the children."

Derouin concludes: "I hope that Tikinagan continues to grow, and provide its services to our clients and our children. And as for myself, I am going to stay until they kick me out!"

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#### WATCH CAROLINE'S STORY ONLINE







FOLLOW US F





## Dress Purple Day





Tuesday, October 27

# 4/14/4/2026 27

σωργό, Λαρ.Δ.Λρ 27

#IDressPurpleBecause

ON DRESS PURPLE DAY, WE CELEBRATE THE COMMUNITY THAT CARES FOR FAMILIES AND SHARE THE MESSAGE THAT HELP IS AVAILABLE AND NO ONE IS ALONE.

DRESS PURPLE DAY OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND ADULTS ABOUT THE IMPORTANT ROLE THEY PLAY IN SUPPORTING VULNERABLE CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES. THIS INCLUDES EVERY ADULT'S LEGAL DUTY TO CALL TIKINAGAN OR THEIR LOCAL CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY IF THEY HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT THE SAFETY OR WELL-BEING OF A CHILD OR YOUTH.

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