

SUMMER 2020

MAMUW OBIKI-AHWAHSOOWIN

EVERYONE WORKING TOGETHER TO RAISE OUR CHILDREN

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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.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE, 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.

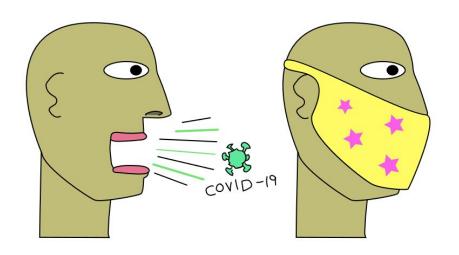


A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

At Tikinagan Child & Family Services, our primary responsibility is the wellbeing of children and their families. This is always at the forefront of our minds and guides the work that we do while working together with our First Nations communities.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic that has taken the world by storm, our methods of service delivery have had to change and we have taken unique measures to still be able to provide services – including office closures and creating a foster parent hotline. But we always remain available to serve children, families, and the First Nation communities we serve – 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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TIKINAGAN'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

As a precautionary measure to protect the health of staff, clients and community members, Tikinagan Child and Family Services has closed urban and community-based offices effective March 18 until further notice. As a social distancing measure, we have a very limited number of staff working in some of our offices and the majority of our staff are working remotely off-site. Tikinagan is still providing services – however, we are adjusting service delivery to avoid in-person contacts.

- Our main phone line is open to receive calls 1-800-465-3624 (toll-free) or 807-737-3466. Messages will be relayed to the appropriate personnel.
- Service teams continue to operate in each community and respond to needs. Staff are working remotely off-site.
- In-person contact with clients will be limited to urgent child protection matters. Precautionary measures will be taken including health screening questions in advance of in-person visits.
- All non-essential face-to-face contacts, family visits and home visits will be postponed until further notice. Contacts and visits will be done by telephone, email, or using any technology that we can make available to the families, youth and children we service.
- Tikinagan is working in collaboration with each First Nation we serve in regards to pandemic plans and Tikinagan's service delivery including arrangements for regular and emergency contact with First Nation leadership. Our staff are following any pandemic measures implemented by individual First Nations.
- Tikinagan has restricted business travel for staff and clients to essential/emergency only.
- Tikinagan has cancelled gatherings until further notice such as meetings, prevention events, training, etc.
- All payments will continue without interruption. Mail and faxes are being collected and distributed on a regular basis.

Tikinagan will continue to keep everyone informed of adjustments to our service delivery. Regardless of the COVID-19 situation, Tikinagan will continue to follow the values of our service model: Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin everyone working together to raise our children.

GET THE LATEST TIKINAGAN COVID-19 UPDATES AND RESOURCES AT TIKINAGAN.ORG/COVID-19

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Twelve years ago, Miranda Rae started her career with Tikinagan Child Family Services as a receptionist in her home community in Weagamow (North Caribou/Round Lake) Lake First Nation.

Now with poise and a calm voice, Rae, who accepted a Supervisory position with the agency one month ago, was one of the presenters at the bi-annual Supervisors Meeting in front of more than 100 supervisors and managers held in Lac Seul First Nation, February 25-27. The purpose of the meetings was to provide training, empowerment, and direction for supervisors based in communities Tikinagan serves on policies and procedures related to the agency, new legislation, and program information, as well as finance and human resources updates.

"As a Supervisor for Tikinagan it was very enlightening," said Rae of the three days. "At the beginning it was very important when (Executive Director) Thelma Morris came out and spoke about the Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin service model and how we need to be working together when serving our people." Rae emphasized how the next three days always connected back to the service model.

"All of the training moving forward aligned with how each was connected. For example, intake, family services, youth outreach, foster homes, residential care licensing, and how Tikinagan is working as a collective to better serve our people."

Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin, which means "everyone working together to raise our children," represents the culmination of more than 35 years of work to develop a culturally appropriate response to children and families who are in need of help in the First Nation communities. In developing Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin, Rosemary McKay, Special Projects Coordinator and a pioneer in helping develop the model for the organization, said Tikiagan sought to be true to the original vision that the Chiefs and Elders had when Tikinagan was created.

McKay explained how starting the training by helping Supervisors understand the service model was very important: "Tikinagan is still growing, so it is important at this time that the Supervisors understand what Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin is, and that they pass it on. This is the foundation of how they do their work."

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"This Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin model is not just a name," added McKay. "The name stands for our peoples... that we work for everyday and their customs. That is was how they raised their children. This goes back way before the Child Family Services Act and Legislation. We're looking back at before the government took over our lives as First Nations people."

Even though Brittany Johnson, Director Services Supervisor, has worked with Tikinagan for six years and served a Supervisor for almost two years, she understands the importance of hearing about the model and how it connects to her work.

"A highlight for me was just hearing the perspectives about Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin, ensuring the service model is at the forefront of the work that we do — for our communities, for our families," said Johnson of the meetings.

Johnson presented on Part X of the Child, Youth and Family Services Act, which is a legislative privacy framework for Ontario's child and youth sector. Effective January 1, 2020, Part X establishes new rules for the collection, use, and disclosure of, and access to, personal information held by Ministry-funded service providers like Tikinagan. Johnson explained how Tikinagan will implement the new requirements with continued, culturally-appropriate approaches and responses to families and communities.

"I hope my presentation really emphasized on how we can protect our client's information, ensuring that we have those trusting relationships and that we have respect for our families and our communities and allowing them to have a voice," said Johnson. "They have an inherent right to have their information protected."

Along with the presentations — which consisted of updates on Bill C-92, overviews on new or existing services, privacy laws related to new legislation, and administration procedures — the meetings also had activities that focused on having the staff working together.

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WATCH OUR SPECIAL HONOURING OUR CHILDREN DAY MESSAGE!

ft. the Prime Minister, NAN Grand Chief, Ontario Regional Chief & more!

