

SUMMER 2020

MAMOW

OBKI-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 Tikanagan 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 Obiki-ahwahsoowin, 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 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.

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GET THE LATEST TIKINAGAN COVID-19 UPDATES
AND RESOURCES AT [TIKINAGAN.ORG/COVID-19](https://www.tikinagan.org/covid-19)



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 Tikinagan 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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