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# Tikinagan

Child & Family Services

Spring 2022

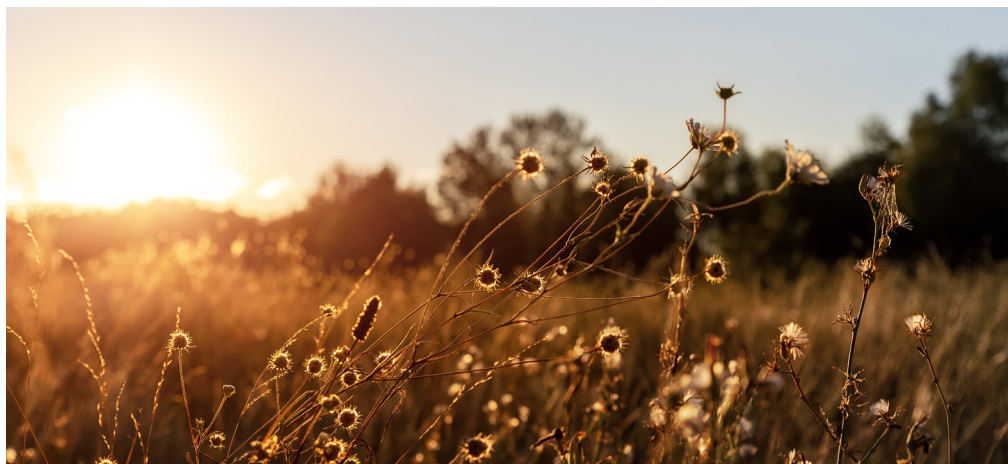
Everyone working together to raise our children

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- Lil' Bands Video for the North
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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.

## Remembering Moses Mawakeesick

Tikinagan & Child Family Services mourns with Deer Lake First Nation the passing of former Chief Moses Mawakeesick. He was 75.

Known as a wise and caring man to many, Mawakeesick is remembered for his prayers for and guidance of Tikinagan, reflected Thelma Morris, Tikinagan Executive Director, who knew Mawakeesick for more than 20 years.

"I am very sadden by our loss," she said. "Moses has been a big part of Tikinagan. He contributed in every way, not only as a staff person but Board Member and Elder. I am sending my condolences to Deer Lake and the surrounding communities because he knew a lot of people; and most of all, his family for their tremendous loss. He impacted lots of people, both in his personal life and work life."

Mawakeesick served with Tikinagan as an employee, Board Member, and Elder. He began his career with Tikinagan in 1997 as a Family Counsellor until 2000. In 2006, he joined the Tikinagan Board as Keewaytinook Okimakanak's representative. He resigned when he returned as Family Service Worker from 2009-2011. And since 2017, he guided the agency on the Elder's Council.

Morris added that Mawakeesick was easy to work with because he was always accepting of people.



TIKINAGAN CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES  
STAFF, BOARD MEMBER & ELDER[illegible][illegible]

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## Remembering



### MOSES MAWAKEESICK

TIKINAGAN CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES  
STAFF, BOARD MEMBER & ELDER

"He always had valuable wisdom to share with agency. He was the type of person that said what needed to be said and did it in a respectful manner. The way he said it was truthful and respectful and never offended anyone. He had the personality that people gravitated towards, and people sought out his advice and welcomed his wisdom."

### Tikinagan Backs 2SLGBTQ+ Community, Conversion Therapy Bill

For Illa Meekis, the new legislation to ban the practice of conversion therapy for all ages across Canada, is bittersweet.

The Wawakapewin band member has a deep connection to 2SLGBTQ+ community. Her late

child Tia (also known as Andrew) passed on June 6, 2020. Her child experienced discrimination against their gender identity.

"This hurts deeply, but with more education, acceptance and love, my child would be so happy, said Meekis of Federal Bill C-4, which proposes to eliminate the harmful practice of conversion therapy in Canada, through four new Criminal Code offences.

As a Prevention Support Supervisor at Tikinagan Child and Family Services, Meekis joined the agency's 2SLGBTQ+ Committee. At first, she was reluctant, but now embraces her story and her role for the 2SLGBTQ+ community. A huge part has been the support of the Tikinagan family for their support and kindness during her loss.

"Our children are given to us as gifts," said Meekis. "We must honour their presence by again supporting, loving and acceptance. Not just children/youth who identify as, but everyone who identifies as 2SLGBTQ+. Open your hearts and get to know the person. Mine was my best friend."

Conversion therapy is the practice of attempting to change an individual's sexual orientation using physical, spiritual, and psychological interventions, often using counselling and behavioural modification. It also seeks to repress an individual's non-heterosexual attraction. These efforts are widely discredited as an ineffective and potentially harmful practice aimed at trying to change an individual's sexual

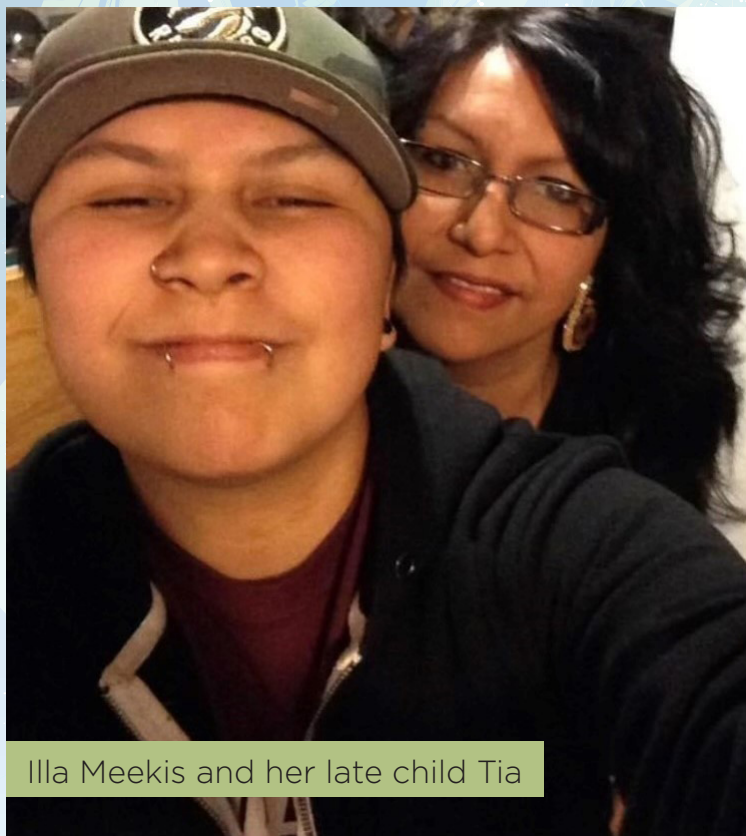
### FOSTER CONNECTION

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.

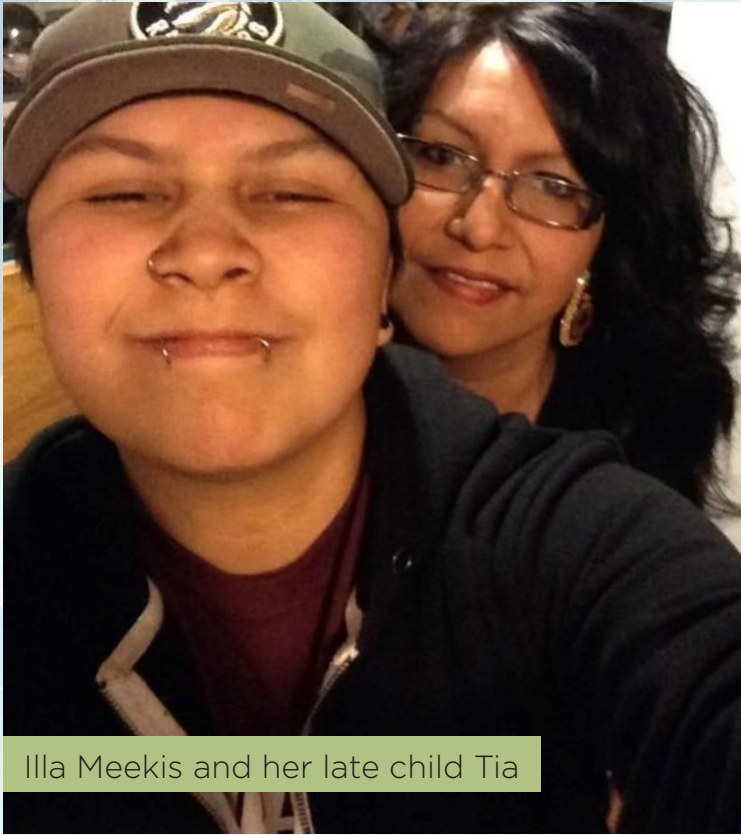
[LEARN MORE](#)











Illla Meekis and her late child Tia

orientation or gender identity. In November, Canada's Senate unanimously agreed to fast track the bill.

"We support the government and the bill for the sake and safety of our children, as well for families like Illa," said Rachel Tinney, Tikinagan Associate Executive Director and 2SLGBTQ+ Committee member. "This means there should be no barriers, no hurdles, no obstacles for our children to feel accepted for who they are and want to be."

Although previous attempts at conversion of Indigenous peoples have been attempted through efforts like residential schools, Meekis said now is the time to create safe spaces, inclusivity and acceptance of all.

Every person should have the right to feel safe in their community. We need to learn accept, support and overall love one another. I hope to see other organizations and businesses creating a safe place for our 2SLGBTQ+ community.

As an Indigenous child well-being agency, Tikinagan strives to be a diverse and inclusive organization that supports equality and is committed to fostering a supportive environment for all, does not discriminate by sexual identity or gender expression.

The Tikinagan 2SLGBTQ+ Committee can be reached by e-mail at [2SLGBTQ+@tikinagan.org](mailto:2SLGBTQ+@tikinagan.org).

### **Lil' Bands Video for the North**

The wait is over! The Lil' Bands Hockey Tournament, in partnership with Tikinagan Child & Family Services and the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority, is excited to present Video For The North – a short YouTube compilation video filmed by our First Nations youth, children and families in Northwestern Ontario. Thank you to everyone who participated and submitted clips!

The Lil' Bands Hockey Tournament, in partnership with Tikinagan Child & Family Services and the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority, is excited to present this Video For The North – a short YouTube compilation video filmed by our First Nations youth, children and families in Northwestern Ontario.

Young hockey players were invited to film and submit short video clips that was edited into a full YouTube compilation video. This is one way we can all work together to help raise our children by encouraging them to showcase their amazing talents.

The Lil' Bands Tournament is one of the most popular events for our communities. For many of our children and youth, it becomes their Stanley Cup playoffs. They dream about it for months and months. Communities work together to fundraise and support their hockey all-stars. Unfortunately, due to the impact of the pandemic and out of the safety for our communities, the tournament organizers have postponed the tournament for the second consecutive year.





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## VIDEO FOR THE NORTH

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But this doesn't mean our communities can't unite in a common bond over sport. This week-long event in February (and also in March with the All Bands Tournament) is an event that brings our First Nations together. Cousins reunite, kookums cheer for their grandkids, and

communities celebrate their success. This video highlights the skills and faces of our children and youth. Thank you to all participants!

To see the video, [click here](#) or go to [Tikinagan.org](http://Tikinagan.org)



### Tikinagan Events | Important Dates

#### March – Foster Parent Appreciation Month

This March Tikinagan is celebrating Foster Parent Appreciation Month and the commitment of our more than 370 foster parents across 30 First Nations and urban areas in Northwestern Ontario.

### Be in the know!

For more information, career opportunities, or to become a Foster Parent, visit [tikinagan.org](http://tikinagan.org). Follow us on Facebook @Tikinagan, Instagram @Tikinagancfs and on Youtube.

