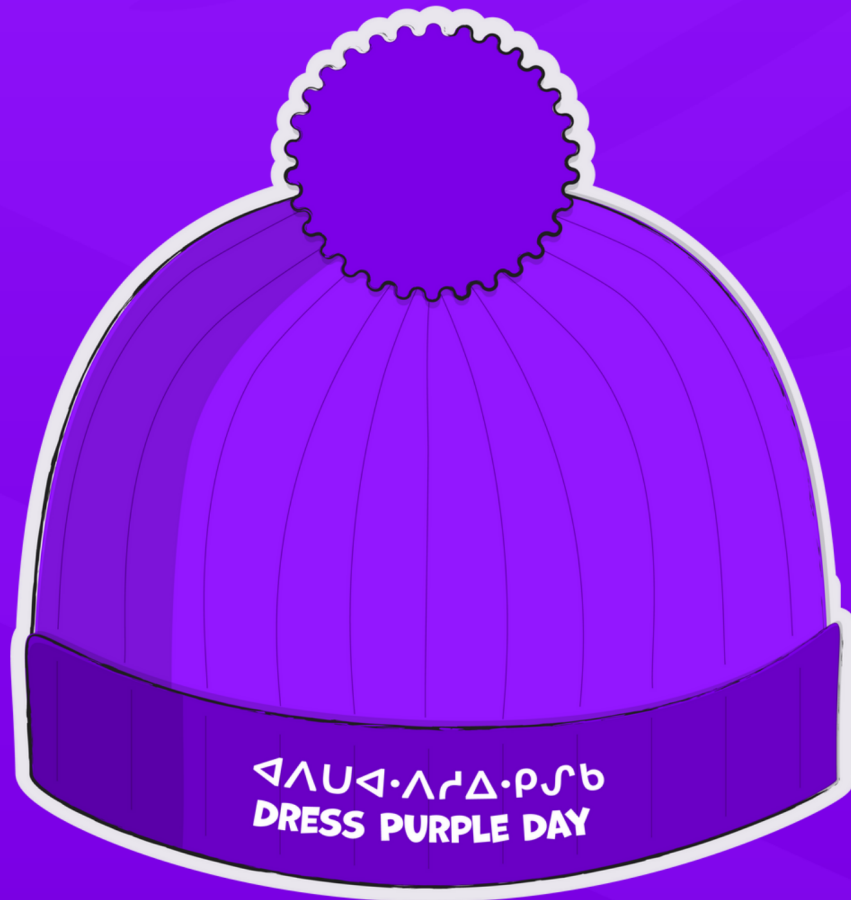




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**Tikinagan**

Child & Family Services



# Dress Purple Day Toolkit:

## A Resource for Educators & First Nation Schools



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**Tikinagan**  
Child & Family Services

[tikinagan.org/DPD](http://tikinagan.org/DPD)



Thank you for participating in Dress Purple Day on October 27. We are excited to be able to provide this valuable resource for educators and First Nations schools. As well, we got some awesome contests and giveaways for students and your classrooms. Together, let's colour the North Purple on October 27!

We hope the curriculum lesson plans, the contests, and the overall effort of your school will raise awareness in our First Nations: No child or youth is alone, and each of them deserve the right to safety and well-being in all spaces.

-- *Tamika Stewart, Tikinagan Education Liaison*  
[tamika@tikinagan.org](mailto:tamika@tikinagan.org)

# THANKS

for supporting

**DRESS PURPLE DAY**

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# INTRODUCTION

Every October, Tikinagan Child and Family Services along with Children's Aid Societies and Indigenous Child and Family Well-Being Agencies across the province, raise awareness about the important role that individuals and communities play in supporting vulnerable children, youth, and families. This includes every adult's legal duty to call their local Children's Aid Society or Indigenous Child and Family Well-Being Agency if they have a concern about the safety or well-being of a child or youth.

Dress Purple Day offers an opportunity to encourage everyone to speak up for every child and youth's right to safety and well-being in all spaces. Not just physical safety and well-being—children and youth have the right to have their intersectional identity, which includes culture, race, sexual orientation, and gender identity, protected, and supported in all spaces.

We use this day to raises awareness that community organizations are part of the circle of care that supports the well-being of children, youth, and families. At Tikinagan, we refer to this circle as the Wee-chee-way-win Circle.

The Wee-chee-way-win Circle may include the child's parents and siblings, extended family members, the First Nation Chief and Council, Elders, the school principal and teachers, workers from other community resources, Foster Parents, other caregivers, and Tikinagan workers. Although each has a different role in a child's circle, the success of a child's emotional security depends on teamwork. By working together in mutual cooperation and respect, a circle of healing will surround the child. The Wee-chee-way-win Circle is an integral element of Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin.



Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin, which means “Everyone working together to raise our children,” is the Tikinagan service model and works to keep families together, maintain our culture and respects the inherent authority of First Nations to care for our own children. Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin is rooted in our traditional customs of caring for children. In our culture, children are regarded as sacred gifts from the Creator, not only to the family but also to the larger community of extended family members. Everyone shares in the responsibility of protecting and caring for that child.

On Dress Purple Day, we celebrate a community that cares for families and share the message that help is available and no one is alone.

We are calling on everyone to wear something purple on October 27 to show children, youth, and families that they are here to help!

Show your support on social media by posting your purple pictures with the hashtags #IDressPurpleBecause and #IDressPurple

Dress Purple Day is important to our organization. It gives us the opportunity to show our communities that we are here for our children, youth, and families as a resource. Our philosophy, Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin, doesn't just include Tikinagan staff. It includes the whole community as we all work together to raise our children. We really hope to see everyone wearing purple as a way to show that they are part of the circle of care.

### This Toolkit includes:

- Why engage students?
- Elementary, Middle & HS Lesson Plans
- School Announcement Script
- Duty to Report
- Key Messages for Parents/Guardians
- Contests for students and classrooms
- Purple Shirts and promotional items



More content available at  
[tikinagan.org/DPD](http://tikinagan.org/DPD).

# ABOUT TIKINAGAN



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## Tikinagan

Child & Family Services

**We believe the answer lies within the community.**

For over 35 years, we have been serving our 30 First Nations. 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. They need to be nurtured within their families and communities. As such, community responsibility for child protection is an essential aspect of Indigenous self-government, which is key aspect of our service model Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin, "everyone working together to raise our children."

Learn more about Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin, reporting, and our services by visiting [Tikinagan.org](https://Tikinagan.org) or follow us on social media.

# Help us, but don't out us.

Children and youth in care need extra supports at school but we don't want you to out us when you provide them. Every school should have one designated staff person who knows our story who we can reach out to. This designated staff person can then discuss with us whether we want other teachers to know about our situation. One designated staff person means we don't have to tell our story over and over again - the reason we dread going back to school in September. But that staff person can't only be helping children and youth in care, because that will draw the kind of attention to us that we want to avoid.

[tikinagan.org/DPD](http://tikinagan.org/DPD)

# ENGAGE STUDENTS

## Why Engage Students?

The focus of Ontario Dress Purple Day is to raise awareness about the role that adults in the community play in supporting the rights of children and youth to safety and well-being. Research shows that ensuring that children and youth are aware of helping adults in their support network is an important prevention tool. On Dress Purple Day, students learn about their right to safety and well-being and the existence of networks of support to help them when they experience challenges.

All members of the community play a role in ensuring children's safety and well-being, but teachers and other education professionals are in a unique position because they may be the only "helping" adult a child or youth encounters daily. Education professionals can be the vital link for a child or youth who is experiencing abuse or neglect at home or in the community.





# CLASS RESOURCES

The intention of the classroom resources for **elementary students** is to support educators with tools and information to make Ontario Dress Purple Day a meaningful learning opportunity for students. The resources, which are based on the theme, “It takes a community to care for kids,” are intended to help education professionals engage children and youth in conversations about safety and well-being, helping adults in the community, and how to ask for help. The resources also incorporate an equity perspective that includes racism, prejudice, intolerance, and systems abuse as reasons why children and youth might need to ask for help.

The classroom resources for **middle** and **high school students** focus on self-esteem, healthy and unhealthy relationships, and the role of adults and social services in helping youth and their friends. The resources also incorporate an equity perspective that includes intolerance, prejudice, and discrimination as reasons why youth might need to ask for help. A youth’s well-being is damaged when their gender identity, race, ability, sexual orientation, culture, language, and religion is not respected, and when they encounter discrimination and prejudice at the individual level and at the institutional and systems level.

Research shows that older children and adolescents generally disclose to their peers, usually about maltreatment experiences involving same-age peers and not necessarily about maltreatment perpetrated by adults. Regardless of the type of abuse shared with peers, it is imperative to emphasize the necessity of adult involvement. Educating older children and adolescents around how to help their peers by asking for support from adults is an important piece in any personal safety or prevention program.

# Elementary Students

## **Lesson 1: “It Takes a Community to Care for Kids”**

It is the responsibility of adults in the community to ensure children’s rights to safety and well-being, wherever they are. In this lesson, children identify adults in their community that they can turn to for help. They are also encouraged to keep telling until they get the help they need.

## **Lesson 2: “Safety in the Community”**

Healthy touch is integral to human relationships and, as a result, children need practice becoming in tune with their feelings about touch. In this lesson, children will learn about how to recognize their “uh-oh” feeling and apply it to situations involving inappropriate touch. They will also learn that there are no secrets about touch.

## **Lesson 3: “Well-being in the Community”**

The community is also responsible for ensuring the well-being of children. In this lesson, children learn that they have physical, emotional, social, and cognitive needs. They will also learn how to identify the adults in the community who can help them if these needs are unfulfilled.

## **Lesson 4: “Ontario Dress Purple Day: It Takes a Community to Care for Kids”**

On Dress Purple Day children join communities across the province and speak up for their rights to safety and well-being and how it takes a community to care for kids. This lesson engages children in fun activities to bring to life this positive message that help is available. This lesson reviews the key themes presented in previous lessons.

For the link to download the curriculum,  
 visit [tikinagan.org/DPD](http://tikinagan.org/DPD)

## Middle & High School Students

### **Lesson 1: “You are Not Alone - We Can Help”**

Youth have a right to safety and well-being in all the spaces they occupy. When youth are in distress or experiencing maltreatment the most important thing for them to do is to get help. In this lesson, students learn about the role of trusted adults in supporting them when they need help, the barriers that may get in the way of help, and strategies and resources for getting help for themselves and their peers.

### **Lesson 2: “Self-Esteem”**

A strong and positive sense of self-esteem can help youth cope with stress, seek out healthier relationships, and maintain boundaries. Youth with strong self-esteem are also more likely to reach out for help when their safety and well-being is at risk. This lesson looks at the different factors that can impact a youth’s self-esteem, including self-talk and relationships. This lesson also looks at how intolerance and prejudice can impact self-esteem.

### **Lesson 3: “Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships”**

Relationships can be complex and confusing to navigate, and so the ability to establish clear boundaries and recognize when relationships are becoming unhealthy is an important skill. In this lesson, youth learn about the differences between healthy and unhealthy relationships, as well as strategies for maintaining healthy relationships, ending unhealthy relationships, and navigating the power dynamics within relationships. In this lesson respect for all people, regardless of their race, gender, sexual identity, culture, language, or religion, is shown to be key to healthy relationships.

**For the link to download the curriculum,  
visit [tikinagan.org/DPD](http://tikinagan.org/DPD)**



# MAKE IT HEARD

## **School Announcement**

Dress Purple Day takes place every year on October 27 across all of Ontario. Dress Purple Day was created to raise awareness among children and youth about their right to safety and well-being in all spaces. We wear purple to show others that we are there for them and that no one is alone.

Tikinagan Child and Family Services invites you to wear purple on October 27. By wearing purple, you can show that you are part of the circle of care that supports the well-being of children, youth, and families.

*Don't forget to announce the contests on the next page!*



# ΔΛUΔ·ΛrΔ·ρJb | Dress Purple Day

Every class that has 10 or more students (or a majority of a small classroom) wearing purple will win a hot lunch. We ask that teachers send pictures of their class, with the teacher's name, classroom grade and school name to [communications@tikinagan.org](mailto:communications@tikinagan.org). The pictures will be shared on Tikinagan's social media as well as other materials. A consent form is attached, if needed.



Every student from Tikinagan's 30 First Nation is invited to participate in our Student Contest. Students are asked to write, draw, or express in some art form why they dress purple. All submissions will receive a \$25 gift card, and the Top 3 entires will WIN a Nintendo Switch! We ask teachers submit art with the teacher's and student's name, grade and school/community to [communications@tikinagan.org](mailto:communications@tikinagan.org). The pictures will be shared on Tikinagan's social media as well as other materials.



## How do you get a purple t-shirt and other promotional items?

Prior to October 27, Tikinagan is sending a box full of Dress Purple Day promotional items, such as toques, pencils, pens, sunglasses, and stickers. In addition, we printed purple t-shirts in multiple child/youth sizes. Our Tikinagan staff in your community will bring these items to your school. Connect with your local Tikinagan worker to confirm these details.

## What should we put on the t-shirts?

Each Tikinagan t-shirt has a white space for students to share why they dress purple. This is the perfect tool for an applicable learning outcome! If you don't have shirts for your class, you can repeat the same idea with a poster (draw a shirt and insert a sentence into the white box) by using the template we provided at the end of the toolkit.

# Meet with us and talk to us...

..when you are making decisions about us. We know our needs, although we don't always know what's available to us. Don't only consult with our caregivers and other adults. Bring our voice into all educational decisions that involve us, including IEPs (Individualized Education Programs) and accommodations. Truly hearing our voice means active listening, understanding there's a power dynamic that makes it difficult for us to speak openly, not making assumptions, and asking rather than telling.

# DUTY TO REPORT

The purpose of the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act (CYFSA)* is to promote the best interests, protection, and well-being of children and youth.

Section 125 of the Act states that a person, including professionals who work with children or youth, must promptly report any suspicions that a child or youth may be “in need of protection” to Tikinagan (or either a Children’s Aid Societies or Indigenous Child and Family Well-Being Agencies).

Children and youth have a right to safety and well-being wherever they are. This includes not just in their homes, but also in their communities. Tikinagan will investigate concerns about primary caregivers but also community caregivers such as teachers and coaches.

The *Child, Youth and Family Services Act* recognizes that professionals and officials who work with children have an enhanced responsibility to report their suspicions.

Under the *Child, Youth and Family Services Act*, a professional’s failure to uphold their duty to report for a child under 16 could lead to a “penalty” or a fine of \$5,000.

As of 2018, 16 and 17-year-olds are eligible to receive protection services from Children’s Aid Societies. While reporting for 16 and 17-year old youth is not mandatory, please contact Tikinagan if you have concerns about the safety or well-being of a youth.





# YOUR RIGHTS



Kids and Youth in the care of Tikinagan have rights. Adults have a duty to listen. In this educational video, we invited child and youth to share their rights while in care.

Watch here!

[tikinagan.org/resources/resources-for-kids-and-youth/](https://tikinagan.org/resources/resources-for-kids-and-youth/)





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Connect with us!



#Tikinagan



#TikinaganCFS



Search Tikinagan



## Share Your Purple Shirt Pic!

Share your purple shirt pics on social media using the hashtags:

#IDressPurple

or

#IDressPurpleBecause

## QUESTIONS?

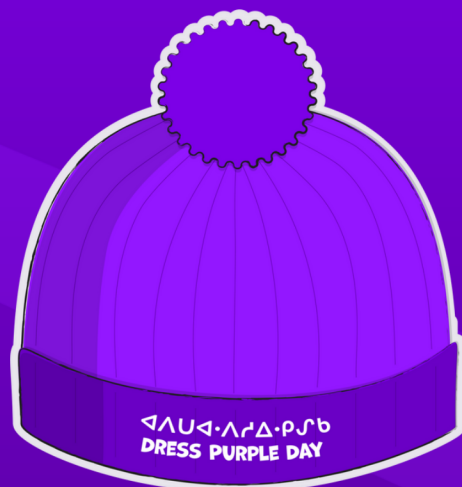
Contact Tikinagan Education Liaison Tamika Stuart at  
[TamikaS@tikinagan.org](mailto:TamikaS@tikinagan.org)

More content available at [tikinagan.org/DPD](http://tikinagan.org/DPD)

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For more information visit  
**TIKINAGAN.ORG/DPD**



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*Dress Purple Day October 27, 2022*



**Dress Purple Day**  
October 27, 2022

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**Dress Purple Day**  
October 27, 2022

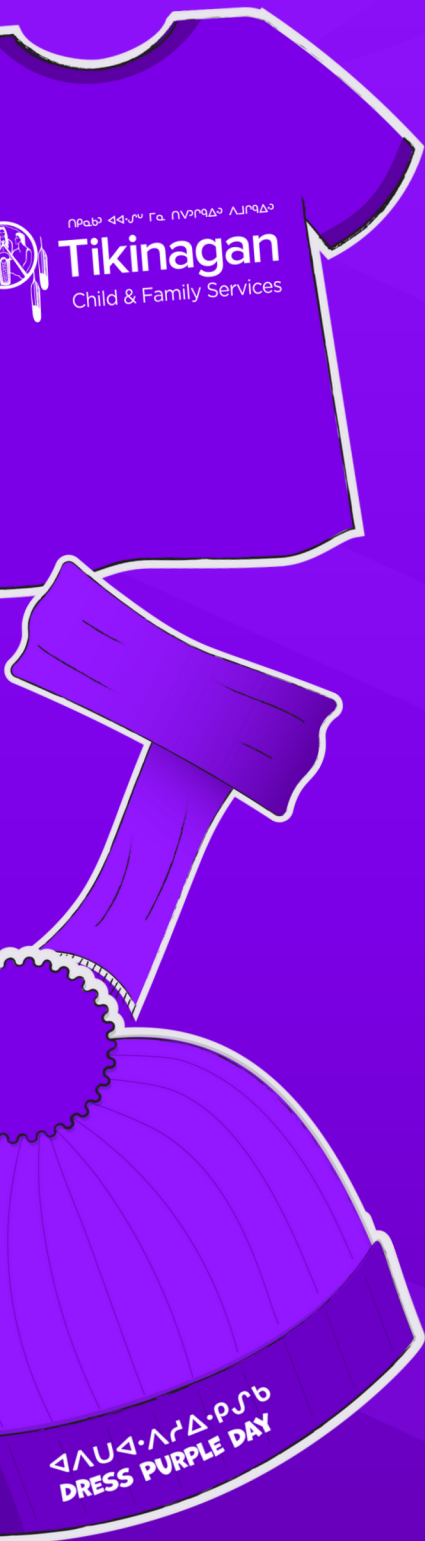
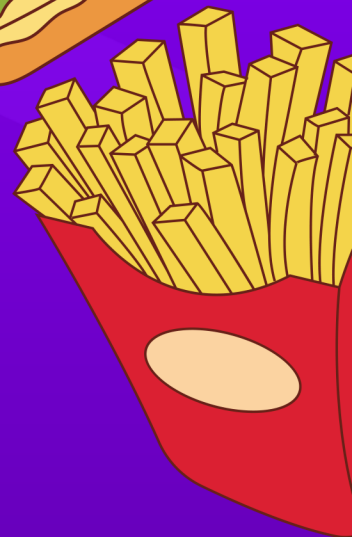
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## On Thursday, October 27

**Wear Purple and  
win a hot lunch  
for your class!**

Every class that has 10 or more students wearing purple can win a hot lunch.

We ask that teachers send pictures of their class, with the teacher's name, classroom grade and school name to [communications@tikinagan.org](mailto:communications@tikinagan.org)



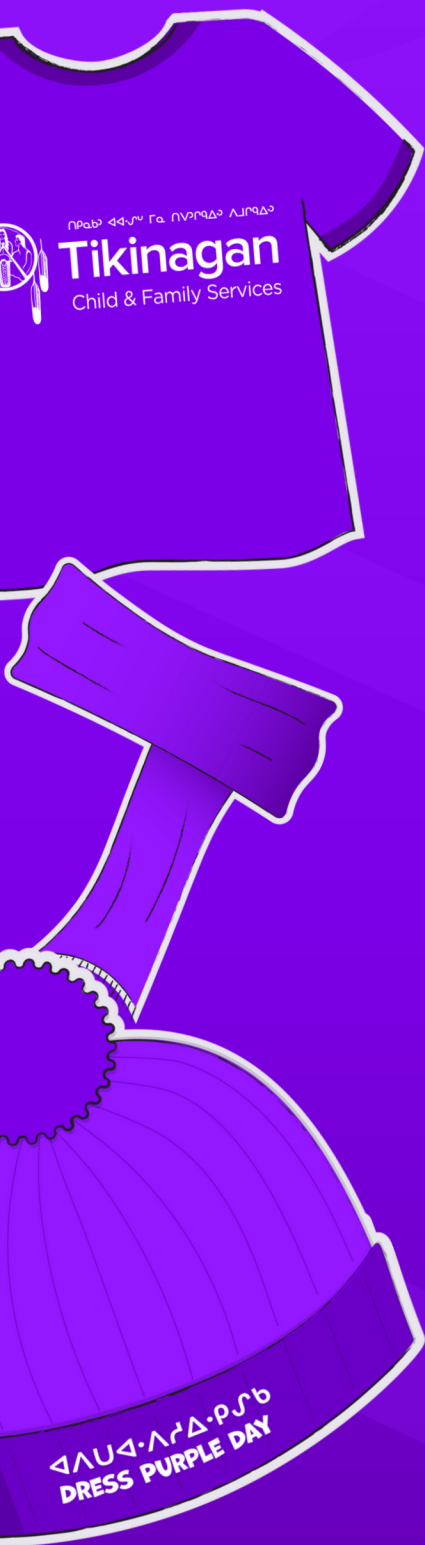
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**Tikinagan**  
 Child & Family Services





**Dress Purple Day**  
October 27, 2022

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## Tell us why you wear purple and win a Nintendo Switch!

Every student from Tikinagan's 30 First Nation is invited to participate in our Student Contest. Students are asked to write, draw, or express in some art form why they dress purple. All submissions will receive a \$25 gift card, and the Top 3 entries will WIN a Nintendo Switch!

We ask teachers submit art with the teacher's and student's name, grade and school/community to [communications@tikinagan.org](mailto:communications@tikinagan.org). The pictures will be shared on Tikinagan's social media as well as other materials.



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