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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/DRESSPURPLE



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!

In order to help your students understand the important messages of Dress Purple Day, we'd like welcome you to Beastie Valley. Beastie Valley is an educational series brought to us by the Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society and supported by the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies. This series touches on subjects such as getting help and well-being in the community. These are great resources for the classroom and the home.

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.

THANKS
for supporting
DRESS PURPLE DAY



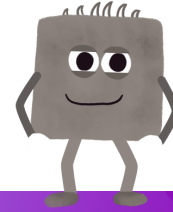


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Tikinagan
Child & Family Services



Ontario Association of
Children's Aid Societies



The resources from this toolkit have been adapted from
oacas.org/publications-and-campaigns/dresspurpleday.
Tikinagan is one of 51 agencies associated with the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, as well as the Association of Native Child and Family Services Agencies.

WELCOME to BEASTIE VALLEY



Beastie Valley is an educational series brought to us by the Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society and supported by the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies. This series touches on subjects such as getting help and well-being in the community. These are great resources for the classroom and the home during Dress Purple Day (and beyond!).

The primary goal of the Beastie Valley Video Series is to increase the utilization and delivery of the entire prevention program by adding the new and unique element of video. Video is not only more engaging for a young audience but also appeals to educators and facilitators who appreciate the benefits of a supplemental visual medium to teach important social topics.

A secondary goal with the series is to engage other community leaders and advocates beyond the education sector to deliver the program. There are many community organizations (formal and informal) that are equipped to deliver this program to children and youth across communities and in various settings such as family learning centres and community organizations. Equitable access to these vital educational messages is essential for the protection of all children in all settings including their homes, schools, neighbourhoods and across their community.



ABOUT DRESS PURPLE DAY

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 raise 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:

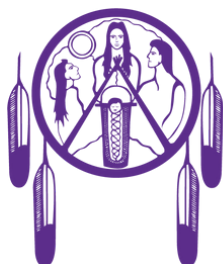
- Why engage students?
- Elementary, Middle & HS Lesson Plans
- School Announcement Script
- Duty to Report
- Key Messages for Parents/Guardians
- Contests for students and classrooms
- Purple promotional items



More content available at
TIKINAGAN.ORG/DRESSPURPLE



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://www.tikinagan.org) or follow us on social media.



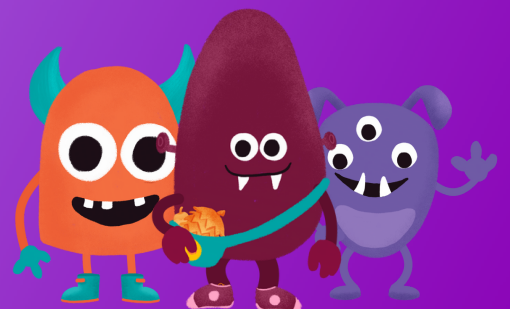
Help us, but don't out us.



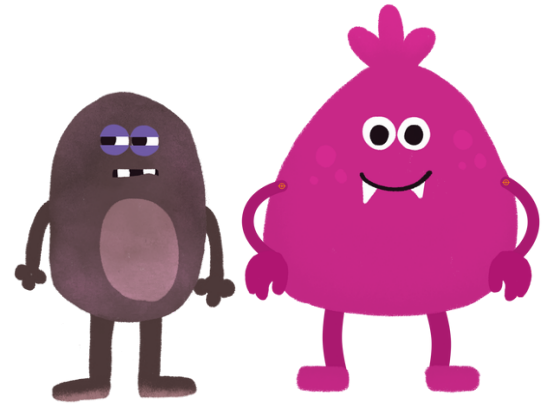
Children and youth in care need extra supports at school but we don't want you to out us when you provide them.

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.

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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. Our trip to Beastie Valley will help students understand these important concepts.

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.



IT TAKES A COMMUNITY TO CARE



Beastie Valley is an educational series brought to us by the Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society AND supported by the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies. This series touches on subjects such as getting help and well-being in the community. These are great resources for the classroom and the home.

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.



For the link to download the curriculum, visit TIKINAGAN.ORG/DRESSPURPLE



Lesson 1: Getting Help

How to find help and ask for help. The first person you go to might not be able to help, so this requires you to tell more than one person.

Getting Help tells the story of OrangeBeastie needing help with a problem – something embarrassing so they don't want to share it with the whole world.

After trying to solve their problem on their own, OrangeBeastie realizes they need to find someone they can trust to tell their problem to. Someone who can help or direct them to the help they need. They go through some options in their head before landing on PurpleBeastie, who had experience dealing with difficult situations.

In the end, OrangeBeastie got the help they needed and is doing much better coping with their problem and all thanks to their trusted friend and an adult beastie named SilverBeastie.



For the link to the videos, visit
TIKINAGAN.ORG/DRESSPURPLE



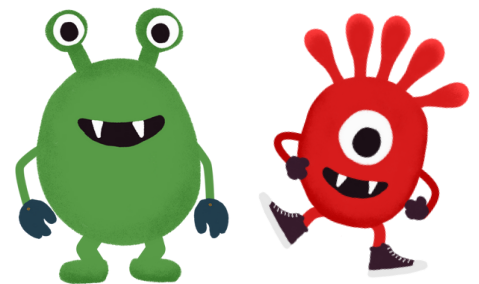
Lesson 2: Getting Touchy

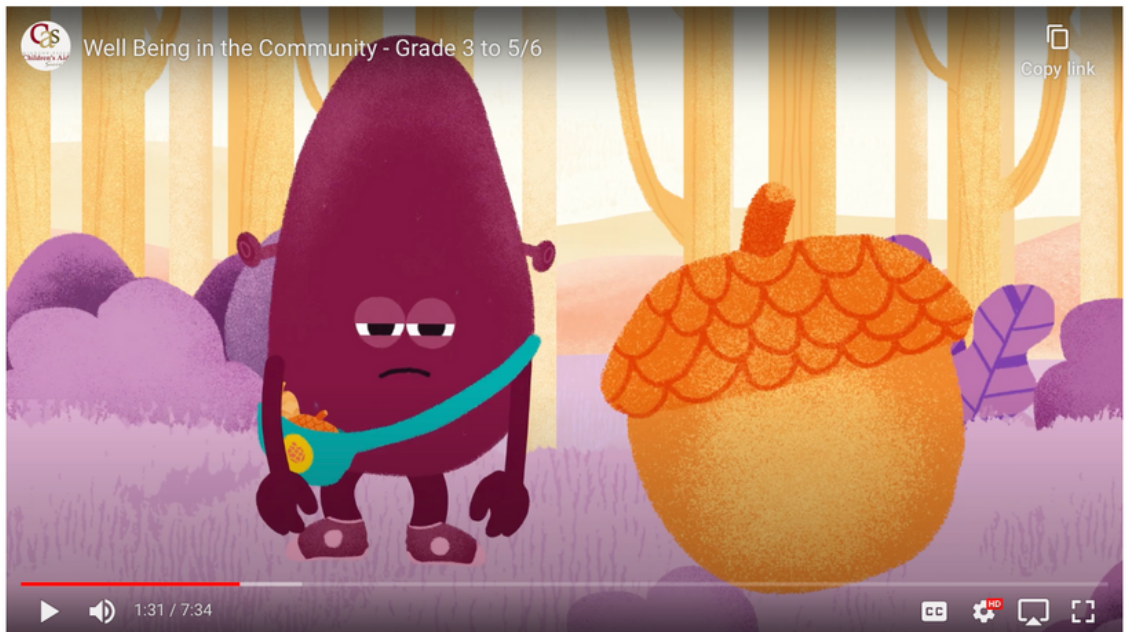
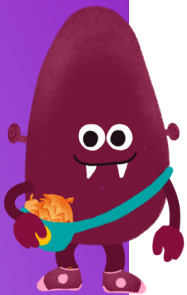
How different kinds of touch can make us feel, learning about boundaries & consent, and the importance of getting help from an adult.

Getting Touchy tells the story about RedBeastie who has REALLY ticklish head tendrils and is super self-conscious about it to boot. But they're just so bouncy and blobby that most other folks can't help themselves from reaching out and giving them a feel or a poke. This makes RedBeastie really uncomfortable. It reminds them of when their older cousin used to make fun of their sensitivity and would use them as little punching bags, which actually hurt a lot.

One day, RedBeastie meets a really nice beastie, GreenBeastie. They become fast pals and their friendship flourishes. There's one problem though, RedBeastie is worried the same thing will happen with GreenBeastie. This leads to a lot of misunderstanding and hurt feelings which almost ends their friendship.

Thanks to some help from an older and wiser beastie named BurntSiennaBeastie, these beastie besties learn an important lesson together about consent and boundaries. AND in the end, they find a new and special way to celebrate their friendship!





Lesson 3: Well Being in the Community

Understanding what wellbeing is all about and how we can make sure all of our needs are being met. Adults have a role to play.

Wellbeing in the community tells the story of one particular young beastie named MaroonBeastie. MaroonBeastie is pretty cool and well-liked. You'd think that would be enough for any beastie, but MaroonBeastie has one thing that they're really really into and can't get enough of. For as long as they can remember, MaroonBeastie has always been into treecones.

But lately, MaroonBeastie is feeling more and more like no matter how many cones they collect – and they've collected a LOT of treecones – it's somehow never enough. Meanwhile, it seems like ALL the other beasties are carrying on with fulfilling lives.

MaroonBeastie's journey leads them to encounter many beastie friends along the way, including an adult beastie named SepiaBeastie who knows a thing or two about a thing or two. SepiaBeastie teaches all the young beasties an important lesson about wellbeing, how important it is to have all our needs met, and how adult beasties can help.

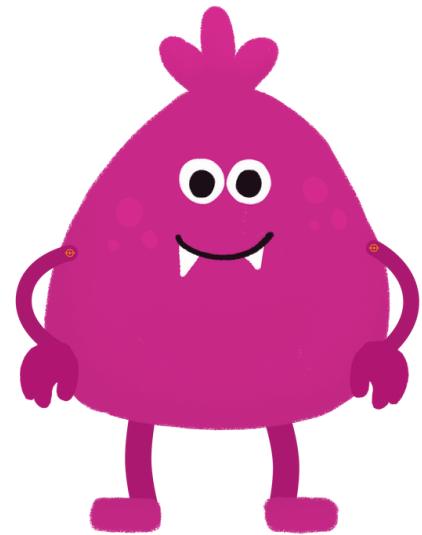
MaroonBeastie finally understands this lesson and in the end, finds what they have been needing the most.



Lesson 4: Getting Connected

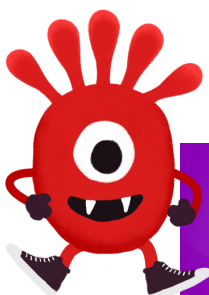
Everyone in a community plays a role, and together create a strong community web. No one is alone.

Getting Connected brings together all the experiences and lessons from the Beastie Valley video series to show that Beastie Valley is a true community. Everyone does their best and wants what's best for themselves and the other beasties.



This act of sharing and support is happening all around Beastie Valley. Even if you can't find help the first time you look for it, eventually you will, and a strong community web is one with lots of connections. That means you are not alone.

You can see how everyone is connected, you can see how you're connected. And you can see how much stronger the web is because of – you!



For the link to download the curriculum, visit TIKINAGAN.ORG/DRESSPURPLE



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!



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



**Wear Purple.
Win a Hot Lunch!**

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. The pictures will be shared on Tikinagan's social media as well as other materials. A consent form is attached, if needed.



Student Contest! Win a \$250 Gift Card!

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 be entered to win a draw for a \$250 gift card of their choice! We ask teachers submit art with the teacher's and student's name, grade and school/community to communications@tikinagan.org. The pictures will be shared on Tikinagan's social media as well as other materials.

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.

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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/



KEY MESSAGES

"What is Dress Purple Day?" Here are some messages you can use to communicate with your parents, guardians, and Chief and Council about this event on October 27.

- We dress purple to show we're here to help families. No one is alone.
- We dress purple to raise awareness among children and youth about their right to safety and well-being in all spaces.
- Tikinagan protects every child and youth's right to safety and well-being in all spaces.
- 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 raise awareness that Tikinagan supports the well-being of children, youth, and families.
- 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.
- We want to promote the best interests, protection, and well-being of children and youth.

CONNECT WITH US



Share Your Purple Pics!

Share your purple pics on social media using the hashtags:

#IDressPurple

or

#IDressPurpleBecause

QUESTIONS?

Contact the Communications team at
Communications@tikinagan.org

More content available at
TIKINAGAN.ORG/DRESSPURPLE



For more information visit
TIKINAGAN.ORG/DRESSPURPLE





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Dress Purple Day

ՆԵՐՃՆԵՐ 27, 2023
October 27, 2023

(On or around) 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





Tikinagan Image Consent Form

Purpose: Tikinagan Child and Family Services hosts an up-to-date website and social media pages, as well as produces informational materials about its services for the public. The website, social media pages, and informational materials include photos and video of community members, families and children.

What is expected of me? We would like to include photographs and/or video of you and/or your children on the Tikinagan website, social media, and/or in informational materials about Tikinagan services.

Who will see the pictures? Photographs and/or video of you and/or your children may be posted on the Tikinagan website (www.tikinagan.org) and our social media pages. Anyone who visits these pages will be able to see them. Informational materials will be distributed in Tikinagan's service area and elsewhere.

You may take as much time as you wish to think this over. Before you sign this form, please ask questions about anything not clear to you.

AUTHORIZATION:

I, _____, being at least 19 years of age
[please print your name]

and the parent/legal guardian of _____
[please list all underage children here]

hereby consent:

(i) that the photographs/video in which I or my child(ren) appear may be used by Tikinagan Child and Family Services for posting on its website, social media pages or in Tikinagan informational materials.

(ii) to release all my rights and my children's rights to these photographs/video and allow them to become Tikinagan's property, so Tikinagan shall have the right to post them to its website, social media pages, or use them in its informational materials free of all claims and/or damages I or my child(ren) may have or incur;

(iii) and to release Tikinagan from any liability with respect to any use made of these photographs/video after they appear on the website or social media (for example, other people downloading them).

I understand:

- (i) that Tikinagan Child and Family Services will not use these photographs/video for any other purpose other than for its website, social media and informational materials;
- (ii) that Tikinagan will install controls on the website and social media to the extent possible to prevent photos/video from being transferred;
- (iii) and that I may withdraw my consent at any time, but that I need to do so in writing to Tikinagan Child and Family Services.

Signature of Person in Photo or Parent/Guardian of Underage Child

Date

Mailing address, phone number, email address (if you have one)

Signature of Tikinagan staff

Date

Internal Use - Photo Description:
