ᑎᑭᓇᔭ ᐊᐊᓂᓵᓄ ᒥᓇ ᑎᐱᓯᕐᓇᐅᔭ ᐱᒧᕐᓇᐅᔭ

Tikinagan

Child & Family Services

Annual Report

2024-2025

ᒪᒪᐤ ᐅᐱᑭᐦᐊᐦᐊᓱᐅᐣ ᑲᑭᓇ ᐊᐅᓀᐦ ᐁᐅᑕᓇᑭᐦᐨ ᑎᐅᐱᑭᐦᐊᐦᓀᐦ ᑭᓂᔑᓂᓵᓇᐣ

Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin Everyone working together to raise our children

CONTENTS

About Tikinagan Child & Family Services	3
Message from the Board Chair	4
Message from the Executive Director	5
Services Highlights	7
Niigaanshkaawin	12
Staff Recognition	13
Financial Position	13
Celebrating 40 Years	14
About the Artist	15

Board of Directors
@ March 31, 2025

Lorraine Crane, Chairperson
Sonny Gagnon, Co-Chair
Russell Kakepetum, Secretary-Treasurer
Jim Bottle, Board Member
Simon Winnepetonga, Board Member
Samantha Kejick, Board Member
Chris Kakegamic, Board Member

Elders Council
Georgina Neshinapaise, Nibinamik First Nation
Teri Fiddler, Sandy Lake First Nation
Nora Atlookan, Aroland First Nation

Youth Council
Reina Foster, Lac Seul First Nation
Tyleen Strang, Poplar Hill First Nation

ᑎᑭᓇᑲ ᐅᑎ ABOUT TIKINAGAN CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

Created by the First Nation leadership in our region back in 1984, Tikinagan is a community-based child wellbeing agency rooted in and accountable to the communities we serve. We are a large team of caring staff working in First Nations and supporting our families from our 30 First Nations.

We are here because we want to protect our children, help our families and nurture our communities.

Our Mandate

We are also mandated by our Chiefs to provide services that are culturally sensitive to the needs of Indigenous children, families and First Nations. We are accountable to the Chiefs and to the communities for this responsibility.
We are also one of 53 Children's Aid Societies in Ontario mandated under the Child, Youth and Family Services Act to protect children from harm. We are accountable to Ontario for this responsibility.

Our Vision

The Answers Lie Within the Communities

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 First Nations' self-government.

Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin

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 our traditional ways of protecting and caring for children and supporting families that has been designed and is delivered by First Nations people.

Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin represents the culmination of almost 40 years of work to develop a culturally appropriate response to children and families who are in need of help in First Nation communities. In developing Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin, we have sought to be true to the original vision that the Chiefs and Elders had when Tikinagan was created.

Customary Care

Customary care is an integral element of Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin. The First Nation, parents, Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin caregivers and children in care sign a Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin Care Agreement for children coming into the agency's care. Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin care puts the decision in the hands of families, extended family, communities, and First Nation leadership, and not mainstream Court systems.

Learn more about our history and service model

ᑲᐅᑎᒃᓂᓯᖏᑦ ᐊᐱᑕᒪᖃᐃᓐᓇ ᐅᑎᕿᒥᔭᐃᓐᓇ
MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Lorraine Crane
Board Chair

Waachiye,

As children, many of us learned about life, resilience, and values by spending time with our families and in our communities. Together, we learned and watched not through words, but by the way they lived. They demonstrated to us patience, humility, and deep respect for all creation. Through hunting, fishing, gathering, and storytelling by the fire, they taught us that our identity is rooted in our connection to the land, our language, and being with each other. Living a good life means honouring those relationships every day.

This year, Tikinagan celebrated 40 years of honouring these values through our work in supporting and caring for our children and families. But this work was not done alone.

Over the last four decades, there have been so many people who have influenced the lives of our children and our communities. This includes our leaders, parents, Elders, siblings, uncles and aunties, kookums and shoomas, teachers, and Tikinagan staff. All their efforts have been guided by Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin, everyone working together to raise our children.

Our traditional values are important because this is what we pass onto our children, the next generation. This is what we will leave behind. They are what guides Tikinagan's work with families and shapes the future of the agency moving forward.

At the heart of everything we do is the understanding that it takes all of us to raise our children. Together, everyone has a role to play in making our children feel safe, supported, and surrounded by culture and connection. I want to thank our leadership and the Tikinagan staff for ensuring the values that were instilled at the agency 40 years ago are still practised in the way we deliver services to our families today.

Miigwetch,

Lorraine Crane
Board Chair

ᑲᐅᑭᒪᐃᐧᓐ ᑎᐸᒋᒧᐃᐧᐣ
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thelma Morris
Executive Director

Waachiye,

I am honoured to share Tikinagan Child and Family Services' 2024–25 Annual Report. As we mark 40 years of working together with our 30 First Nations, I want to recognize the progress we've made in working toward the vision set by our founding Chiefs. Miigwetch to all the Chiefs, Elders, Youth, Board Members, Staff, Foster Parents – past and present – who have been a part of Tikinagan's history.

Since the beginning, our children have been at the heart of our services at Tikinagan. Their lives matter deeply. That is why we, as adults, leaders, and as an agency, have carried this responsibility to protect, support, and guide them toward a healthy and happy future for four decades. This is what they deserve, and we must value them.

While we honour our past, we also recognize the work ahead. Now more than ever, our First Nations and our agency are focusing on what comes next – and what is best – for our children and their futures. Throughout this fiscal year, we have reflected on the future of our agency and its long-term vision, and, above all, the safety and wellbeing of our children.

The Future of Our Agency

In 2024–25, the Chiefs of our 30 First Nations, along with the Chiefs of Ontario, reached an agreement with the Government of Canada to reform the First Nations child and family services program in Ontario. Throughout this process, Tikinagan advocated for what is best for our children and families. We thank our Chiefs for allowing us to bring forward our concerns and ideas. I am inspired by the work that our communities have committed themselves to bring transformational change for our communities.

If the Ontario First Nations Agreement (OFA) is approved by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, it will mark the beginning of a transition period for Tikinagan. This will bring new ways of collaborating and new responsibilities for our First Nations. This is a positive step. But it will require all of us to work together more closely than ever – to plan together, to protect together, and to ensure no child is ever missed or left behind.

> **We are returning to the teachings, the strengths, and the values that have guided our people for generations.**

New Pathways for Child and Family Wellbeing

Connected to this transition is the need to determine the long-term vision for our agency. When the founding Chiefs established Tikinagan in 1984, they saw it as a temporary step on the path to self-governance. They believed that each First Nation should be able to care for their own children.

Today, that vision continues through the work of Niigaanshkaawin, which is helping build new pathways for child and family wellbeing protocols and law development in our communities. This fiscal year, Niigaanshkaawin has worked alongside Elders, Youth, and community

members to help shape accountability practices and guide our strategic planning for the future.

The Safety & Wellbeing of Our Children
As our communities take the next steps forward, we remain focused on our children's safety, our families' healing, and ensuring that every voice is heard. Through Tebenchikaywin Keenkwan Aboowin ("Families respectfully listening to each other, meeting together"), we bring together everyone who is part of a child's life – to build the best outcomes for our greatest gift from the Creator: our children.

In 2024-25, we have been able to keep more children at home and maintain their connection to their family, culture, and community. Throughout this report, you'll find highlights of our services that demonstrate how our service model Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin is making a difference.

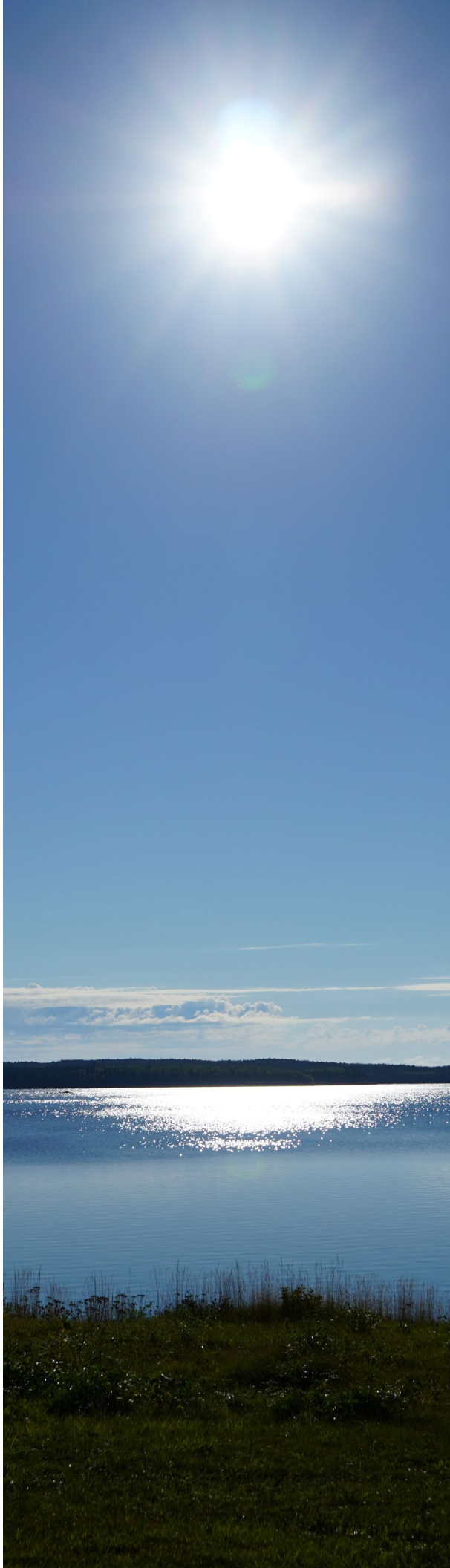
Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin was created by our people and reflects the belief that "Tikinagan is your agency." Tikinagan was established by your Chiefs to support your children, your families, and your communities.

Your agency is governed by First Nations, guided by your Elders and Youth, managed by your people, based in your communities, and rooted in your traditional ways of raising children. Your Chiefs believed – and continue to believe – that the answers lie within the community.

Guided by Tikinagan's First Nations mandate, we remain committed to working together with our First Nations. We will continue to honour the vision that has led us for 40 years and will keep supporting the children and families who count on us.

Miigwetch for walking with us, for working together, and for helping to build safe, supported, and hopeful futures for our communities.

Thelma Morris
Executive Director



Children, Youth, Family Wellbeing, and Supporting Communities

Since our establishment 40 years ago by the Chiefs of the region, we have been serving our 30 First Nations by following our traditional practices and First Nation values. We incorporate the voices of our leadership, Elders, parents, families, and children and youth to embody the spirit of our service model Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin – "everyone working together to raise our children." Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin was designed and is delivered by First Nations people in our 30 communities, and continues to guide the current future work of Tikinagan.

Every decision, every effort at Tikinagan is about our children and youth. We prioritize their safety and their wellbeing while keeping them connected to their community, culture, and family. We prioritize their voice and listen to their concerns.

That is why at last year's Annual Chiefs Assembly (September 2024), we awarded the Oneesh Tamkey award to Noodawishinaam Oshkiniigiwag (Hear Us Youth). The team is a like-minded collective of First Nation youth who are currently or formerly in care and First Nation young leaders, seeking to be the voice of children and youth in care.

When presenting the award Chief Lorraine Crane said: *At Tikinagan, we value the voice of our youth. That's why we wanted to hear from them at this meeting. We want to follow their direction, and as supporters at the back of the boat, we will help steer Tikinagan's services based on what they see ahead. They are the ones at the front of the boat with lived experience, the ones closely connected to the very children and youth we support.*

The team continues to grow with 14 members, representing Poplar Hill, Sandy Lake, Fort Severn, Lac Seul, Weagamow Lake, Bearskin Lake, Mishkeegogamang, and Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug. Their goal is to have one youth from each Tikinagan community.

Our Children and Youth

This fiscal year, our youth have been advocating and leading the way for the voice of our 479 children and youth in care at the end of March 31, 2025. This number continues to decrease on a positive, downward trend from five years ago (571) and last year (489). This steady decline is attributed to more services and resources being present in communities.

41% of children in care were placed in the community they came from

Being in care is never an easy experience. Many of our members of Noodawishinaam Oshkiniigiwag, who have lived experienced being in care themselves, have expressed the challenges they faced. Throughout the year, Noodawishinaam Oshkiniigiwag spoke bravely and boldly to youth in care and our staff, sharing their stories about being in care and things they want to see to help us be better. These voices motivate us to improve services and outcomes for children and families.

Their voices are also

Did You Know?

On April 1, 1987, Tikinagan received designation as a Children's Aid Society with responsibility for all child and family services within its geographical territory.

Learn more

extending beyond Tikinagan. This fiscal year, they worked to promote their mission at events such as the Lil' Bands Hockey Tournament, Feathers of Hope Youth Conference and the Association of Native Child and Family Services Agencies of Ontario (ANCFSAO) annual Child and Family Wellbeing Conference. Fort Severn's Kris Moore spoke on radio programs, sharing her experience in care and work with Noodawishinaam Oshkiniigiwag.

Click to listen to the full CBC interview

There is change happening. The Elders especially have faith in the youth and us to make change. There's been more attention brought to the child welfare system and the chance to perhaps re-shape it to help prioritize the youth in care. Being part of a team that's able to give children and youth a voice is so important, and my goal is to make sure they always feel heard – Kris Moore on CBC Radio, January 2025.

We know keeping our children connected to their family is essential to their transition. Kris, who grew up in care with another child wellbeing agency, notes that the separation from siblings and family and friends can take a toll on youth.

I was definitely confused, because I definitely didn't know what foster care was or what it meant. But I was grateful because I had my younger sister, Brice, with me throughout most of my time in foster care, so at least I wasn't alone and had a sister to depend on. - Kris Moore on CBC Radio, January 2025.

In 2024-2025, nearly one-third (32%) of our children in care are placed with relatives and more than half (59%) of children in care who have siblings in care are placed with them. While the number of siblings remaining together is the same as last year, there is a 5% increase of the children being placed with families.

39% of children in care were placed in the community their family lives in

Even when they can't be with their parents, we make every effort to maintain their connections to the community and extended family.

Our Families

As of March 31, 2025, there were 964 ongoing family files, a steady decrease from last fiscal 1,013 ongoing family files. Of those files, 768 (80%) did not have any children in care under 18.

While children do come into care, we always work towards reuniting them with their families. This fiscal year, 383 children were reunited with their families. Often, reunification happens fairly quickly: of those 383 children, 42.5% were in care for less than two weeks, 18.5% were in care less than a year.

383 children returned to their families

March 31, 2025, we received 8588 referrals, an increase of 324 referrals compared to the previous year. Over half (56%) of these referrals were received from within the First Nations we serve.

of family files have children living at home with their family

Supporting Children and Youth

If children are unable to stay with their family, we place them in a foster home. We started the year with 212 foster homes and had 201 by March 31, 2025. Our 201 foster homes focus on providing connections to the culture, language and identity. This fiscal year, 74% of our Foster Home placements were with a First Nations family. As a

74% of children and youth in care were placed with a First Nation foster family

40 ᐊᐢᑭ

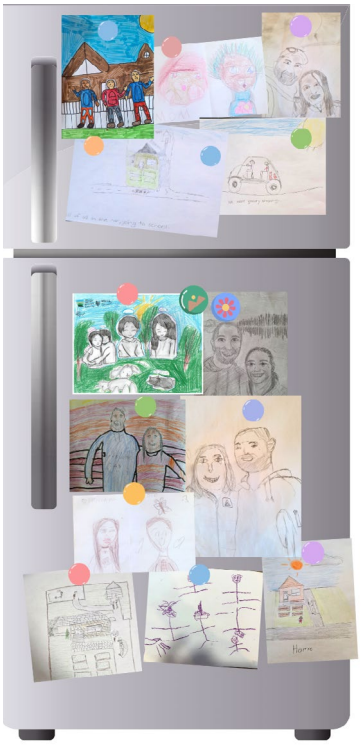
Everyone Working Together

Our Service Model, Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin, was developed for Tikinagan over 25 years ago.

Learn more

SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS ᐃ·ᑭᖏᐃᐁ·ᐃ·ᓇᓗ ᑲᑭ ᐊᓄᑲᑌᑭᓗ

result of our service area expanding into urban areas, we placed 148 children (30%) in an urban setting. A second option for care placements is our Agency Operated Homes. This fiscal, we placed 29 children in our Tikinagan homes.



Every year, we celebrate our Foster Parents during Foster Parent Appreciation Month in March. This year, we promoted our Foster Parenting roles: Foster Parent, and Live-In Foster Parent. Our staff shared thank you messages and we welcomed our kids in care to share their drawings of their Foster Parents to put on our Foster Family Fridge on social media. We also shared three Foster Parents success stories.

When they leave, I always tell them, "If you have trouble, or anything, the door is always open. You can talk to me, or visit me." I keep in touch with them. We go for lunch or something, and they say, 'We'll never forget about you. You're always going to be my grandma. - Mary Rose Meekis, Foster Parent in Red Lake.

Watch our 40 year celebration video

The first time I was a Foster Parent I didn't know what to do. I didn't realize they would become a part of a family. - Leo Quill, Foster Parent in Pikangikum.

In response to this need to keep children closer to home, we marked the re-opening of the Oshka-Teesuk Neeghan Healing Centre in Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug. This six-bed facility for youth ages 12-16 offers land-based programming and a home-like structure to promote healthy living and learning to become healthy adults.

The logo was created by 26-year-old Brooklynn Mequanawap, from Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug. She said the logo represents youth walking towards a brighter future together. She incorporated the colours of the Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug flag to honour the healing centre's location.

OSHKA TEESUK NEEHGAN HEALING CENTRE

For different reasons, children in care are unable to stay with family or in their community. This fiscal year, only 10% of our children are placed in the care of another society, and another 10% are placed with an outside resource. Only 8% of children are placed outside of our jurisdiction.

Mamow Oshki-Pimagihowin

We make proactive efforts to keep families connected and healthy. As an agency, we work with different community partners on several campaigns and events to promote the safety and wellbeing of our children. We also provide

Did You Know?

Tikinagan was the first Indigenous-controlled agency in Canada to have jurisdiction over both Indigenous and non-Indigenous children.

Learn more

SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS Δ·ᑭᖏΔ∇·Δ·ᓇᓗ ᑲᑭ ᐊᓄᑲᑌᑭᓗ

opportunities and education for our children and youth who are in care.

These efforts were led by our Prevention Team, Mamow Oshki-Pimagihowin (Working Together to Learn New Life Skills). This summer, Tikinagan staff and 6 youth in care traveled to Toronto to attend a Youth Camp hosted by ANCFSAO at the Tim Hortons Camp Foundation. Here, kids got to meet farm animals, be on the land, and connect with Elders. Before setting out on their adventure, they met with Noodawishinaam Oshkiniigiwag members.

Click here to watch the youth Toronto Trip video

Mamow Oshki-Pimagihowin provided community events throughout the year. From craft nights to cooking classes, they always find a way to bring us together. No where is this more apparent than our Honouring Our Children Season. From summer into fall, we host Honouring Our Children Day celebrations in many of our communities. From the barbecues to the face painting, we always work to spend our summertime celebrating the accomplishments of our children and youth.

During the 2025 Lil' Bands Hockey Tournament, our team hosted bowling, pancake breakfasts, and self-care days. Joining us was guest speaker and actor Adam Beach. He spoke to a sold-out audience of youth and families at the tournament's banquet dinner. The following month, Beach joined former NHL player Jason Simon on a Community Engagement and Motivational Tour stopping in eight of our First Nations.

We partnered with the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority (SLFNHA) and offered events to those attending the Northern Bands Hockey Tournament in Dryden. From pizza days to self-care days, working together with SLFNHA to care for our players and families is what Tikinagan hopes to strive for with further efforts of community collaboration.

Children and Youth in Care Day

Every May, Tikinagan recognizes Children and Youth in Care Day: a province-wide campaign celebrated every May 14 to recognize the strengths and unique identities of our children and youth in care. New this year, we aimed to promote what it means for a child to be in care at Tikinagan by creating and releasing a 24-page resource booklet, How We Stay Safe: Coming into care with Tikinagan Child & Family Services. A colourful picture book with activities aims to help young readers gain an understanding of the changes that may occur while transitioning into care and recognize safe and unsafe behaviours.

Read the full booklet here

40 ᐊᑦᑭ

From the Beginning

In 1984, Chief Harvey Yesno of Eabametoong came up with the name "Tikinagan" for what was then only a dream of an Indigenous Child and Family Services Agency.

Learn more

Tyleen Strang, a Tikinagan Board Youth Advisor and Noodawishinaam Oshkiniigiwag member from Poplar Hill First Nation, says resources like this will help children and youth in care understand that there are caring adults who will support their connections to culture, community, and family.

I wish I had resources like this when I was in care, so I could understand this experience doesn't have to be scary. Tikinagan workers and foster parents want the best for our children and youth. Changes can be hard, and it's okay to feel angry or sad. Children and Youth in Care Day is an opportunity to show children and youth in care that there are people who want them to feel heard. But we can't do it alone. We need the help of extended family, community members, teachers, and even Tikinagan workers.

Dress Purple Day

Every October, Tikinagan celebrates another province-wide campaign, Dress Purple Day. By wearing purple, we show children and youth in our communities we're here for them. Noodawishinaam Oshkiniigiwag led the campaign by sharing their messages on why they wear purple: to show children they are a safe person to go to if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe and support children and youth's right to safety and well-being in all spaces.

I dress purple because I support safety in my community. – Memekwe Apetawakeesic Morriseau, Weagmow Lake.

I wear purple so children know I'm someone they can come to when they feel unsafe, - Nathan Linklater, Sandy Lake.

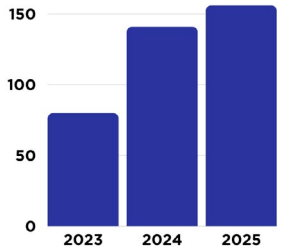
Click here to watch their full video message

We ran a contest in our First Nations schools to show us why they wear purple. Deer Lake's Grade 2 class at David Meekis Memorial School won their school a pizza party from Tikinagan. Even though the school was closed due to -40 degree weather, our staff and community rallied together to get the word out and welcomed all community members for a warm pizza lunch, Beastie drawings, and balloon chasing.

Neegaan Inabin

Initially launched in 2022-2023, Neegaan Inabin youth services ("looking forward" in Oji-Cree), has continued to grow in helping our youth transition into adulthood. As post-majority support services, Neegaan Inabin continues to offer voluntary, culturally appropriate and holistic services to youth between the ages 18-25 within their eight pillars: education, financial, spirituality and culture, housing, relationships, health, and wellbeing, advocacy, and transitions.

This year, we saw our number of Neegaan Inabin youth (ages 18-23) increase to 156 from 135. This 15% increase is attributed to our continued work and effort to support young adults in their transition into adulthood. In addition, 231 (ages 18-25) accessed post-majority supports.



15%

increase in Neegaan Inabin agreements over the last year

Several members of Noodawishinaam Oshkiniigiwag are currently receiving Neegaan Inabin services. Their first-hand experience of the program has provided us with valuable feedback on forms and procedures.

Niigaanshkaawin

ᓂᐲᑲᓇᔑᑲᐘᐏᐣ BREAKING TRAIL

Niigaanshkaawin – Breaking Trail is an initiative designed to follow the direction of all our First Nations we work with in supporting and assisting First Nation affiliates of Tikinagan Child and Family Services in the development of Band representation programs, implementation of child welfare laws, and reimagining the role Tikinagan will have in supporting this initiative. We continue to do this by following the direction of all First Nations we work with.

Ontario Final Agreement

In February of this year, Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Chiefs of Ontario and Indigenous Services Canada announced the Ontario Final Agreement (OFA). This agreement awaits final approval at the Tribunal. We have spent time listening and learning with our First Nations on the draft Final Settlement Agreement (FSA) and Ontario Final Agreement on child welfare reform. We welcome our Chiefs' decision in securing this agreement and appreciate the collaboration that will start to bring transformational change towards ending discrimination against First Nations children and families.

First Nation Representative

Under the CHRT Orders, First Nations were able to access First Nation Representative Funding (Band Representative). Our communities began the process of recruiting First Nation Representatives. Throughout our engagements with First Nations, we have heard that for them to set out on their path, they need the tools for the journey. As a result, we began to create a Kikinoniwewi Masinahikan Guidebook. This will be available to First Nations who may require additional assistance or support during the development of their programs and services. But we don't just put tools in their hands, we visit communities and share these supports in one-on-one development sessions.

Some of our communities are ready to navigate this new path with trained and skilled staff, service delivery, and community-led processes and protocols in place to support their children and families. However, most of our First Nations have not had the time or resources to fully plan and prepare before taking on these new responsibilities. Our communities are doing their best to meet needs of children and families, but it will take time, support, and continued effort.

Child, Youth and Family Law

Many First Nations are actively engaged in their journey toward self-determination and the reclamation of jurisdiction over child and family services. These Nations are at various stages of this important process, with some advancing through collaborative models, such as tribal councils and other First Nation Partnerships. We are very pleased to hear more First Nations who are in the process of creating or who are on their first steps in revitalizing their child, youth and family laws.

Accountability

The Chiefs in Assembly further directed that Tikinagan develop a working group to create a strategic planning process and evaluation framework. With oversight from Niigaanshkaawin Chiefs, we have established a working group who consist of community experts in child welfare, they are community based, language speakers and leaders. The group, who have been providing direction, feedback, and engagement to Tikinagan, will help reimagine Tikinagan's future and help us provide the best service and outcomes to children, youth and families.

Original Vision of our Chiefs

Today, the child welfare landscape is changing rapidly. While these changes are important, we continue to honor the original vision of our founding Chiefs. Tikinagan was founded on two basic principles, as handed down by the chiefs. First, "that no more children be lost from our communities." Second, "that a child and family service agency be created that would work with the people for the people, while respecting culture, heritage, and the concepts of the extended family."

Moving forward

We're committed to listening openly and establishing meaningful partnerships with leadership and the community. Direct communication and culturally grounded practices remain the foundation of the Niigaanshkaawin approach. We will continue to support First Nations to reach their goals of exercising authority and jurisdiction over their children no matter where they reside.

ᓂᓂᔨᐃᐧ ᐱᒧᑎᐊᐧᑭ ᑲᐃᓇᐱᑭᔨ FINANCIAL POSITION 2024-2025

Statement of Child Welfare Fund	Operations 25/24	
Operating Revenue	**24/25**	**23/24**
Child Welfare	$ 77,851,300	$ 73,971,700
Other	$ 57,541,780	$ 40,829,795
Total	$ 135,393,080	$ 114,801,495
Operating Expenses	**24/25**	**23/24**
Salaries & Benefits	$ 59,146,923	$ 51,968,227
Boarding & Client Services	$ 59,057,706	$ 40,710,550
Administration	$ 29,356,917	$ 24,394,234
Total	$ 147,561,546	$ 117,073,011
Fund Balance, Beginning of the year	$ (1,020,488)	$ (2,271,516)
Settlement of prior year deficits	$ 751,297	$ 2,067,638
(Deficit) or Surplus for the year	$ (12,168,466)	$ (816,610)
Fund Balance, End of the year	$ (12,437,657)	$ (1,020,488)

ᐊᑉᑭᓇᑲᐧ ᑲᓇᑕᒪᑲᐊᓱ STAFF RECOGNITION

Tikinagan Child and Family Services would like to recognize employees who have reached their 10th, 15th, 20th and 25th anniversary of employment with the agency in the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Our thanks and congratulations go to the following employees for their many years of dedicated service to the families and children of this region.

10 Years
Evangeline Kanakakeesic
Roxanne Papassay
Robert Thomas
Laila Aho
Caroline Ignace Spade
Jennifer Beardy
Amanda Zatorsky
Jessie Winter
Barbara Littledeer
Illa Meekis
Leah Sever
Lauren Anderson
Dorothy Anderson
Maureen Skunk
Cecil Breton

15 Years
Ruth Beardy
Thelma Morris
Sylvia Ash
Cassie Hill
Robert Wesley
Jason Willms

20 Years
Annie Anishinabie
Audrey Derksen
Grace Whitehead
Katherine Kakegamic
Angela Atlookan
Loretta Lawson

25 Years
Anne Morgan
Randy Fukushima
Marjorie Benson
Laura Brick
Martha Rae

35 Years
Marie Hudson

ᑎᑭᓇᑲ ᐊᒥᐦᐅᐯᐧ ᑭᑫ ᑭᑕᐊᐧᔑᑦ ᒥᓇ ᑎᐯᑎᕐᐃᓐᑲ ᐱᒧᑎᕐᐃᓐᑲ
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

October 2024 marked 40 years of TIkinagan Child & Family Services. Founded by the Chiefs of Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN), Tikinagan has grown from a dream of supporting and strengthening our children, families, and communities into a leading figure in Indigenous-controlled agencies in Canada.

Tikinagan was incorporated on October 11, 1984, after the Chiefs of NAN and the Government of Ontario signed a Memorandum of Agreement outlining their mutual intent to move toward full Indigenous control over child welfare services. The agreement provided for the takeover of Child and Family Services by the Indigenous people of NAN and established a framework for the creation of Tikinagan.

In June 1985, the agency's parameters were established, and some preventive service delivery was initiated. In April 1986, Tikinagan was given approved agency status and on April 1, 1987, Tikinagan received designation as a Children's Aid Society with responsibility for all child and family services within its geographical territory.

Tikinagan has continued to grow and provide services to families living in remote First Nations and urban areas. In January 2020, Tikinagan was designated by the Ministry to provide child protection services to the families from our communities who reside in the district of Thunder Bay. On April 1, 2023, Tikinagan celebrated with Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, the first among the 30 First Nations served by Tikinagan and the second in Ontario to create their own family law under Bill C-92, An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families.

In celebration of the 40th year milestone, we've created a "40th" logo based on the original design by Paddy Peters of Pikangikum First Nation. The logo has been shared since October 11, 2024, to comemorate the 40th year of working together to support children, youth and families.

Watch our 40 year celebration video

ᐊᐁ· ᑲᑭ ᒪᓯᓂᐱᐧᐃᐧᑫᒼ

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Original work created by Darwin Peters

DARWIN PETERS

> Being around family is more important because children learn from their parents

Darwin is a painter based in Pikangikum First Nation, a community in Northern Ontario. His paintings combine traditional Woodlands art techniques with his own personal experiences and stories. As a result, his subject matter ranges from personal storytelling to pop culture references. When he is not painting, Darwin works at the Eenchokay Birchstick school as an elementary gym native language teacher to help students understand their language in sports activities.

UPDATES, STORIES, CAREERS, AND MORE

TIKINAGAN.ORG

FOLLOW US!

@TikinaganCFS