



Niibin 2025

Boozhoo gakina awiya!

Manoominikedaa!

The Niigaanendadaa learners, with the Waking Up Ojibwe - Anishinaabemodaa team, worked through the summer to prepare themselves for manoominikewin - harvesting wild rice. With help from Niigaanibines Don Jones, Ogimaawigwanebiik Nancy Jones, and Pebaamibines Dennis Jones, the learners and team members carved knocking sticks, feasted the wild rice, harvested wild rice on the river, roasted, danced & threshed, and winnowed their manoomin. Learners added these skills and knowledge to their lives while speaking Anishinaabemowin and are looking forward to maintaining the important relationship that Anishinaabe people share with manoomin.



Say IT First

Niigaanendadaa

This summer, Niigaanendadaa made a shift from online programming to hands-on, on-the-land learning. With new students on the team, learners engaged directly with the land, participating in immersive experiences that strengthened their connection to cultural knowledge and traditions. Teachings were generously shared by Elders and community members, offering guidance and language rooted in lived experience.

- July 2nd & 3rd: Wiigwaas collecting & basket making
- July 10th: Canoeing Skills
- July 17th: Rainy Lake Sacred Sites Visit
- July 23rd-25th: Anishinaabemowin Boodawe Committee visit
- August 5th: Rock Paintings on Jackfish lake
- August 6th: Carving Rice Knockers
- August 12th: Medicine picking & processing
- August 20th & 21st: Ricing on the land
- August 27th: Visit to Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung



Students learning canoeing words in Anishinaabemowin



Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung Visit



Kaleah working on her wiigwaas basket



Outdoor Games with the Anishinaabemowin Boodawe Committee Visit



Boat Ride on Jackfish Lake



Medicine Walk with Hilda



Say IT First

What's New?

Niigaanendadaa resumes online classes September 8th. Previous students will be joining the current cohort to refamiliarize themselves with the language before being paired with fluent speakers.

WUOA is collaborating with the **Fond du Lac Band** of Lake Superior Chippewa to create a series of levelled reading books.

Anishinaabemowini -ogichitaag resumes classes on September 8th. They are starting their 4th semester.

Dagwaagwani-mawindoosijigewin Fall Harvest will be taking place September 24th & 25th, 2025.



The new Waking Up Ojibwe - Anishinaabemodaa logo was designed by KC Oster.

Medicine, Song, & Prayer

Each week, we've been coming together in a spirit of connection, healing, and learning. Led by Pebaambines, our gatherings begin with a tobacco offering, flow into songs we are learning together, and create space for teachings. We close in a reflection circle, where all are welcome to share thoughts, questions, teachings, or songs as we deepen our understanding of who we are as Anishinaabe and how our institution can truly reflect these ways.

Hand Drum Making

The Waking Up Ojibwe Anishinaabemodaa team had the opportunity to create our own hand drums under the guidance of Ethan Smith, Cultural Resource Worker with UNFC. Ethan shared his knowledge of drum making and traditional drum protocols, and when the drums were dried and ready, he led a beautiful birthing ceremony to bring them to life.

Lunch & Learn

We partnered with the Health Sciences Department to offer another valuable learning opportunity for staff and students at SGEI. Our bi-monthly Lunch & Learn sessions with Kelvin Morrison explored the 7 Teachings and their connections to health and education. To ensure accessibility, the program was also offered online, allowing learners from all campuses to participate.



Shaelyn Jordan, Lunch & Learn Facilitator, at the Practical Nursing Pinning Ceremony. Shaelyn was the SGEI 2025 Graduation Keynote Speaker.



Say IT First



Early Years

This summer, our team joined the Fort Frances Teddy Bear Picnic, where over 200 children and families took part. We brought a full-sized jiimaan (canoe) for a photo booth, gave away books, made pool noodle boats, and used Anishinaabemowin throughout the day.

Our team travelled to three communities as part of the Minwenjigedaa Food Box program in partnership with Giishkaandago'lkwe Health Services and SGEI's secondary program. Families received free fruits and vegetables, language resources, and activities to take home to enjoy as a family.

Couchiching Child Care Center, Nigigoonsiminikaaning Day Care and Abinoojii Gamig Head Start came to visit us at SGEI. We smudged, offered asemaa to Gookomisinaan and Saagajiwe, enjoyed circle time in Anishinaabemowin, made crafts, and played outdoors.

Wiji'idiwin

Wiji'idiwin: A Gathering of Shared Knowledge brought together community members, those eager to learn and those ready to share their wisdom. The day featured Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and skilled community members at individual booths, each demonstrating and sharing their skill. Learners of all ages moved between stations, learning about different skills, listening to and practicing Anishinaabemowin, hearing stories, and understanding how these practices can shape identity and everyday life.

We were honoured to have several Elders attend, sharing traditional knowledge alongside their skills and we are grateful to all who participated in learning. We are now looking forward to planning another gathering in the fall to continue sharing and learning together.



Congratulations to Bebaamoyaash Robert Horton for receiving the 2025 Fort Frances Citizen of the Year for his work with Anishinaabemowin and his volunteerism.

