



# **Gigidziiminaanig Inaakonigewin**

## **2025-2027**

### **1. Connection**

Seven Generations Education Institute, the Rainy River District School Board, and SayITFirst are in partnership to assist in putting Anishinaabemowin back into the homes of the Anishinaabe people, with full support from the local ten (10) First Nations. The Anishinaabemowin speakers and knowledge keepers, Gigidziiminaanig, will be the ones approached for guidance within the Anishinaabemodaa team.

### **2. Protocols**

- a. Tobacco will be given to a member of the Gigidziiminaanig to open the meeting in a way that reflects their teachings i.e. food dish, gift item, smudging, invocation, etc. A member of the Anishinaabemodaa team will assist as needed.
- b. Each attendee will be given tobacco when they arrive in the morning.
- c. Everyone should speak Anishinaabemowin as much as possible and help each other to continue speaking.
- d. If someone outside of the Anishinaabemodaa team wants to ask the Gigidziiminaanig for guidance, they should first come to a meeting and explain what they are asking for and give tobacco and a gift. The Gigidziiminaanig will meet with them again at the next meeting to offer guidance after thinking on the matter.
- e. Each meeting will be open to a select number of visitors, invited by the Anishinaabemodaa team, who are present to observe and learn.
- f. Spring and Fall meetings will be held in a roundhouse of one of the ten governing communities. Saagijiwe & Gookomisinaan will travel to the

meetings with the Gigidziiminaanig.

### **3. Scope of Activities**

Gigidziiminaanig will meet on a bi-monthly basis at the Seven Generations Education Institute building in Fort Frances, ON. The coordination of the meetings will be the responsibility of the Gaa-niigaanishkang Anishinaabemodaa Anokiiwin. These meetings will follow the meeting agenda, with the option to add other topics at the discretion of the Gigidziiminaanig.

### **4. Roles & Responsibilities**

The Gigidziiminaanig are responsible for supporting the Anishinaabemodaa team in revitalizing Anishinaabemowin. The members of the Gigidziiminaanig will strive to use Anishinaabemowin in their meetings and will strive to help one another remain in the language as much as possible. They will also:

- a. Advise on language for resources and kits;
- b. Act as an information source on culture, traditions, language, education, and sacred, traditional, and customary law as it relates to our language and traditions;
- c. Make recommendations to the Anishinaabemodaa team;
- d. Attend the Gigidziiminaanig meetings for the entire duration (~6.5 hours);
- e. Review materials given by the Anishinaabemodaa team between meetings;
- f. Review the Terms of Reference every two years.

In return, the Anishinaabemodaa team will:

- g. Plan the Gigidziiminaanig meetings, including location, meals, and agenda;
- h. Provide an agenda to the Gigidziiminaanig prior to the meeting;
- i. Ensure detailed meeting notes are provided to the Gigidziiminaanig promptly after each meeting;

- j. Advise all visitors and observers on meeting protocols and expectations;
- k. The translators from the Anishinaabemodaa team will assist with translating important points into English as needed, taking notes, and contributing to the discussions happening.

## **5. Membership**

Each community will have two (2) representatives who speak Anishinaabemowin. Each community representative is responsible for their commitment to the Gigidiziiminaanig. Regular attendance will help the Anishinaabemodaa Initiative incorporate each community's language and knowledge.

If a community representative is no longer able to commit to Gigidiziiminaanig they can suggest another speaker from their community to ask or direct the Gaa-niigaanishkang Anishinaabemodaa Anokiiwin on their replacement. The term of Speaker/Elder representation will be for as long as the Gigidiziiminaanig exists, or a Speaker/Elder is no longer able to commit.

## **6. Fee Schedule**

Each Speaker/Elder will be paid a flat rate of \$250.00 honorarium and additional mileage for attendance at the regular bi-monthly meeting. The Anishinaabemodaa initiative will pay for 1-night of accommodations to attend Gigidiziiminaanig bi-monthly meeting. Discretion will be given to provide accommodations based on weather and need.

When travelling to out of community events elders often require the support of a travel companion who can assist them with a variety of needs. Gaa-wiiji'aad Gichi-ayaa'aan (one who helps the elder) is responsible for meeting the needs of the Gichi-ayaa'aa (elder) they assist. Gigidiziiminaanig members can request a helper through the Anishinaabemodaa team. Each helper will be required to sign and follow the *Gaa-wiiji'aad Gichi-ayaa'aan – Roles & Responsibilities* document.

