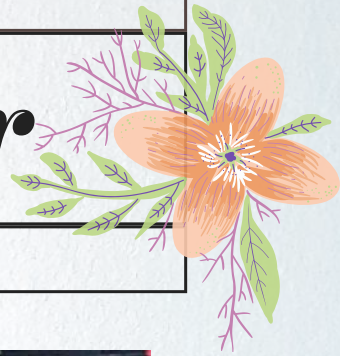


Spring Newsletter



ANISHINAABE ABINOOJII FAMILY SERVICES



What's New

OUR DIRECTORS
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
.....

OUR PROGRAMS
.....

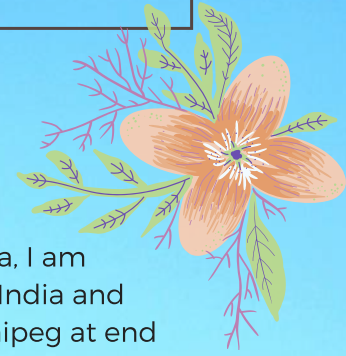
PAST EVENTS
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Spring - Ziigwan



The new season is here!

Ziigwan is the season where Creation happens, baby animals are being born into this beautiful life. The leaves start to bud and grow to give good energy. It is a reminder to care... nourish ourselves and the next generation: To give them lessons and understand that this life we live is beautiful. To enjoy our journey and to walk the *Mino Bimaadizwin (the good life)*.



Our AAFS Directors

Lawrence W. Jourdain Maminotequeneb, Ogimaojiweb, Beshanaquetis a member of the Lac La Croix First Nation, fluent in Ojibway and is a fifth-degree member of the Midewin. Lawrence is a member of the Lynx Clan and has lived in the Northwestern Ontario region for the majority of his life while intermittently attending school in other areas of the province He has acted as a Chief, an Executive Director, a Professor, a member of a Board and sat as President for eight years. Lawrence spends a great deal of time researching and writing about traditional and customary law, traditional healing practice, traditional family systems and traditional governance. He was recruited as the Executive Director for AAFS in April 2017.

Boozhoo, Mishkokawatic Ndisnikas, Ogiishkimanisil doodem. Dennis Petiquan is my English name and I come from Wabauskang F.N. I started with the agency in September 2003 as Director of Services and moved onto becoming Associate Director. I have Honours in Bachelor of Science. I love to work with children and families, it is part of the reason for staying on long doing child welfare. I am very appreciative for the hard working staff doing a very difficult job. I am also looking forward to see Abinoojii Inakonigewin (Child Care Law) come alive and replacing mainstream Children Youth and Family Services Act (CYFSA).

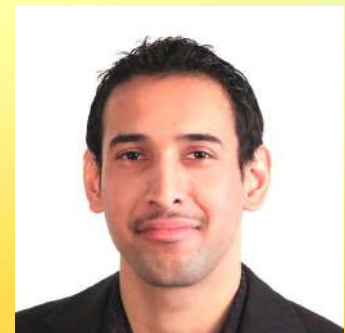
Dheeraj Sharma, I am originally from India and moved to Winnipeg at end of 2010 to do my studies in Master's in Business Administration and finance. After doing my MBA I started working on CPA, CMA program and currently studying for CFA. I am also working in the evenings for a non-profit organization as Treasurer for the past 4 years on a volunteer basis. I am good with numbers and my passion is always to look for processes to make them easier in my field. My mother was a nurse, now retired and my wife is working as a Social Worker in a children's department at the Heath Sciences Centre.



Larry W. Jourdain



Dennis Petiquan



Dheeraj Sharma



Our AAFS Directors of Service

Boozhoo, Sean Spencer Ndishnikaaz, Giniw doodem. I am honoured to be the Director of Services for Anishinaabe Abinoojii Family Services.

I've had the opportunity over the past 21 years to work in Kenora and Northern Treaty #3 for Indigenous Child Welfare agencies, first as an Intake & Assessment Worker, then Intake & Assessment Resource Manager, and currently a Director of Services beginning in 2013.

In my current role I am responsible for supporting the many hard working and dedicated staff in the following programs: Intake & Assessment; Kenora Child, Family, and Alternative Care Service Delivery; Legal and Repatriation Services; After Hours Services; and the agency Training Department.

Miigwetch, Marsee, Thank you



Sean Spencer

Spring: A lovely reminder of how beautiful change can truly be- Anonymous

Aanii Boo zhoo my name is Carolyn Sinclair, from the Bear clan and I am a Director of Services and a member of Washagamis Bay First Nation. I currently manage four programs which are the Dryden Protection team which include Children in Care, Family Services, Case Aide, Program Secretary and Alternative Care. The Dryden team programs which include FASD Specialized Group Home and Dryden Staff Model Home. The Alternative Care team programs which include the Kenora Staff Model Homes, Education Liaison and Alternative Care. The MAKWA GANAATAMAGET program.

My background is I have extensive years of experience in child welfare while having worked for OTFS, KINA and AAFS. Starting from Frontline worker, Supervisor, Manager, and a Director of Services. In having worked previously in Manitoulin Island on child welfare initiatives in capacity development, policies and procedures and completing models for seven First Nations from the grassroots to leadership was rewarding after the agency reached its designation. It is an honor to be back home working for AAFS, as we move forward to sustaining further positive developments in relation to child welfare initiatives.



Carolyn Sinclair



Our AAFS Directors

Boozhoo, Makade kwa kwan qwe n'diizhinikaze, Name ndodem, Iskatewizaagegan ndoonjii. My English name is Beverly Williamson. I am the Director of Social, Strategic Planning and Policy. This is a new department at the Rat Portage Executive Office that includes a Social Planner, Communications Officer and Administrative Assistant. I will be working alongside the new Department, Directors, Elders Council and Board of Directors to guide and assist our priorities and to monitor progress on those priorities.



Beverly Williamson

As an old soul, I wore many career hats such as a Gladue Writer, a courthouse worker, a constituency assistant, worked in women's shelters, a community wellness worker in family violence and sat on various boards as a Director in our community of Kenora. I am an experienced writer with a demonstrated history of working in the non-profit organizations, grassroots organizing, volunteerism, and fundraising.

Soon, I look forward to meeting everyone in Anishinaabe Abinoojii Family Services! I hope everyone is keeping healthy and social distancing during this COVID-19 pandemic. Don't forget your mask and wash your hands! Miiyah, Bev



Boozhoo, nindizhinikaaz Julie Pearson.

I have worked primarily in both our Human Resources and Quality Assurance units over the past 20+ years.

My current position is Director of Quality Assurance which includes oversight of our QA Team to promote a quality assurance framework within AAFS and the Transfer Agencies that everyone in the agency is responsible for Quality Assurance. Miigwetch.



Boozhoo Niibitebinesik indigo, Atik dodem. My English alias is Sylvia Pahpasay -Director of Services for Prevention, Family Preservation, Niigoni and Youth Support, I am from Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek also know as Grassy Narrows First Nation.

I have been in this current position since May 2019, prior to that I was Director of Services for Kitapinoonjiiminaanik Family Services for approximately 5-6 years. I have been with the agency (AAFS) since 2001 in a management role. Miigwetch.



Our AAFS Executive Committee of the Board



Executive inauguration held at Wauzhushk Onigum Traditional Round House

Reno Cameron- Chair

Eleanor Skead- Vice Chair

Julie Redsky- Treasurer

Cindy Cameron- Member at Large

The Executive Committee represents the Board of Directors, together they make discussions focusing on what is best for the children and communities.

The Board of Directors consists of 4 Executive members and 14 members from each of the 14 communities Anishinaabe Abinoojii Family Services serves. They are appointed by their Chief and Council by Band Council Resolution.



AAFS Programs

As the Education Liaison, I am proud to say that the Education Program is thriving. Presently we are working to support all of our students in virtual learning. Almost every student has received an iPad from an initiative we were involved in last year. We are busy planning for a Community Gardens Program that involves 15 CICs in care of AAFS or KRR. This is a paid employment program and credits earned for hours worked. Skill development and employability skills. AAFS now has 8 students involved.

I hosted a Zoom meeting on May 26th to plan success celebrations of our students. We have 10 grade 12 graduates as well as grade 6 and 8 grads. Every student in care will be celebrated in a special way for what they have achieved.

As the school year comes to a close, I want to thank each and every student, caregiver, and families for their participation in education. It has been a rough road through the pandemic but we have all persevered and survived.

Shelley Kardal
Education Liaison Worker



"I glanced out the window at the sign of spring. The sky was almost blue, the trees were almost budding, the sun was almost bright"
~Millard Kaufman

Wauzhushk Onigum Traditional Round House

Dryden Team

The Dryden team provides services to our surrounding First Nations- Eagle Lake, Wabigoon and Wabauskang. The Dryden Team consists of Family Services Workers, Children in Care Workers, Case Aide, Alternative Care Worker and our Administration staff, Program Secretary and Receptionist.





AAFS Programs

Boozhoo,

My name is Rebecca Wassaykeesic-Ferguson, I am a member of the Washagamis Bay First Nation located south of Keewatin and just 20 minutes outside of Kenora. I joined the Mobile Youth Crisis Unit in June of 2020 as a frontline crisis worker. In November of 2020 I was selected for the Unit Coordinator Position. It has been an exciting and rewarding experience thus far. We have undergone a few staffing changes and have hired some new people for the unit. We are growing and learning together and have received lots of positive feedback from the Ontario Provincial Police with whom we work closely.

I am immensely proud of the Unit and all the good work we have done in helping to keep our Youth in care safe. The relationships our staff has built with the youth has been positive and we are proud of the fact that for the most part the Youth see our workers in a positive light and don't hesitate to reach out to the workers on the frontline when they need help.

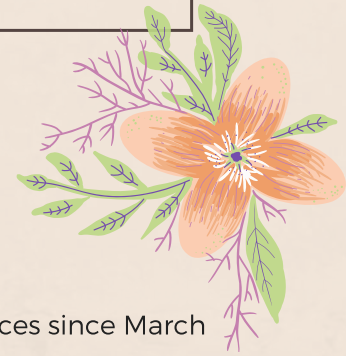
I am confident that we will continue to grow in a positive direction and will continue to build on positive relationships in the community and with our youth going forward.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Ferguson
Makwa Ganaatamaaget Unit.



Makwa Ganaatamaaget Logo





Transferred Agency- Shawendaasowin

SHAWENDAASOWIN CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

Theresa Roseborough Director of Services Shawendaasowin Child and Family Services since March 31, 2021

Previously I had been a Family Service Worker, Resource Manager and Director of Services with Kitapinoonjiiminaanik Family Services for many years. I have been blessed with many teachers throughout the years, sharing cultural and tradition with me.

Shawendaasowin Child and Family Services looks forward to expanding their prevention and preservation programs as well as continues to support community families to care for their children in and out of care.

We have a compliment of 10 staff;

Joelle Roy Resource Manager

Josh Tom Family Service Worker

Heather Cowley Child in Care Worker

Charlotte Joseph Investigation and Assessment worker filling in for Lena Copenace's maternity leave

Kelly Kavanaugh Program Secretary

Elain White Cultural Coordinator

Mikhaela Copenace Prevention Worker

Leigh Green Case Aide

Alternative Care Coordinator will be hired in the next couple of weeks.



Shawendaasowin Child and Family Services



AAFS Past Events

Niigonikaapaawitang Preservation

Due to COVID-19, Niigoni Preservation held a Virtual Pow-wow from March 12-30, 2021, it started off with a traditional opening at Wauzhushk Onigum Golden Eagle Bingo Hall.

It was wonderful to see the communities come together virtually. Some communities held a small pow wow in their own community and shared live videos online. Others danced in their home and posted online to share. It was beautiful to see all the dancers dressed in their regalia. The pow wow ended with a closing song at Wauzhushk Onigum Golden Eagle Bingo Hall.



Howard was live on Facebook as the MC for the opening and closing of the Pow wow. Miiyah





AAFS Past Events Continued

Spring Feast Ziigwan

On May 27, 2021 AAFS held a spring feast at the Wauzhushk Onigum Round House, the ladies wore a ribbon skirt and the men wore ribbon shirts, it was wonderful and colorful to see. The Ogichidaa-Drum of Wauzhuzhk Onigum and Niinobinesiik Drum of AAFS were joined with the Grand Council Treaty #3 Drum.

We shared a small individual packaged feast and sang and danced together. It was a great way to come into this new season Ziigwan together.



Pictures from the Spring Feast