



ANISHNABEK EDUCATION SYSTEM UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Back in December of 2016, the community voted and “Said YES to the AES” (Anishinabek Education System)

The process has been moving along quickly, On August 14 2017 there was a signing ceremony was held in Rama First Nation where our Chiefs and a youth from each of our 29 First Nation’s signed the Anishinabek Education Agreement with Canada, and the Mater Education Agreement with the Province.

On December 14, 2017, Bill C-61 the Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement Act, passed through Canada’s Legislative process and is now law and shows promising support which will move us to the next steps in supporting the future of our children. The passing of this law will be life changing for many of our children and our future generations.

The passage of Bill C-61 gives effect to the largest education self-government agreement in Canada. The Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement is a step out from under the Indian Act for the 23 Anishinabek First Nations toward greater self-determination and improved education outcomes for Anishinabek Students.

The Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement will lay the foundation for transforming change in the 23 Participating First Nations throughout Ontario, recognizing Anishinabek control over education on and off reserve from Kindergarten to Grade 12, as well as administrative control over funding for post-secondary education.

We have secured a location for our new AES office, which will be newly built and housed in Nipissing First Nation. The official date for the opening of the Kinoomaadziwin Education board, is April 1, 2018.

We have established a new executive of the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body (KEB) board which includes Lisa Michano from Biigtigong Nishnaabeg)(Co-Chair), Catherine Pawis from Wasauksing (Chair), Lauri Hoeg From Georgina Island (treasurer) and Evelyn Ball from Chippewas of Rama (Secretary).

The next important step to finalizing the legal steps is for Wahnapiatae First Nation to adopt a Draft Law under our Education Constitution, this was drafted with legal department through the Union of Ontario Indians and has been approved by Chief and Council to move onto the next steps.

I will be holding a meeting April 7, 2018 to present and review the Draft Law. We will have lunch served at noon with the continuation of review.

If anyone will not be able to make the meeting you can send an email to Marilyn.nicholls@wahnapiataefn.com or you can call me at the office at 705-858-0610.

I look forward to seeing everyone here. If you are planning to attend, please bring your package with you.

Miigwetch,

Marilyn Nicholls
Education Support Worker