



# AN INTRODUCTION TO THE KOOGNAASEWIN PROJECT: A NORTH SHORE FIRST NATIONS' CHILD WELL-BEING INITIATIVE



The Kooognaasewin Child Well-Being Law Project is a collaborative initiative with each of the seven North Shore First Nations: Atikameksheng, Sagamok, Serpent River, Mississauga, Thessalon, Batchewana, Garden River. The Kooognaasewin Initiative is here to assist the First Nations in developing their own community-driven Child Well-Being Law. The North Shore Tribal Council October 2018 resolution concerning child welfare recognized the need to restore Anishinaabe jurisdiction for child welfare. The development of such law(s) is dependent on the participation of the members of the North Shore First Nations communities.



## Project Background:

- 1988 NSTC Resolution: The journey began in 1987 through a decision of the North Shore Tribal Council (NSTC) to pursue work with "... the objective of that planning process is the development of a plan for the re-establishment of community care of children and families of North Shore Tribal Council-affiliated bands".
- October 2018 North Shore Tribal Council on Anishnaabe Child Well-Being Law: In recognition of the need to respond to evolving legislation, structures and relationships in Child Welfare, the First Nations of the North Shore of Lake Huron have expressed a desire to have their own Child Welfare (Child Wellbeing) Law. First Nations each have the inherent right to determine their own path forward in exercising their jurisdiction in providing care and support to children and families. Against the backdrop of broad provincial & national financial and legislative reforms the First Nations of the North Shore of Lake Huron wish to proactively chart their own course and choose the nature and impact of the regulations and programs intended to apply to them. The North Shore Tribal Council and Nogdawindamin Family and Community Services propose to undertake appropriate community engagement, consultation, planning and dialogue to ensure members are able to make informed decisions as full participants in defining their futures.



RE-IMAGINING THE  
CURRENT CHILD  
WELFARE SYSTEM

ADDRESSING  
COSTING AND  
FINANCING  
REQUIREMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS  
STRATEGY

CONSULTATION  
AND  
ENGAGEMENT

ANISHINAABE LAW CUSTOMS,  
PRACTICE AND DISPUTE  
RESOLUTION & ESTABLISH  
DISPUTE RESOLUTION TO  
REPLACE ADVERSARIAL COURT  
SYSTEM

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR  
COMMUNITIES AND  
TRANSITION  
NOGDAWINDAMIN FROM  
PROVINCIAL REGIME TO  
ANISHINABE REGIME

# KOOGNAASEWIN PROJECT TIMELINE

## YEAR ONE- 2021- 2022

Begin communications campaign and initial community Education & Awareness sessions  
Elders & Knowledge Keepers sessions on Anishinabe law & dispute resolution  
Discussions on developing new child welfare model  
Preliminary work on Costing Study  
1st round of community engagement sessions to get feedback about potential content for the law  
Review of feedback from 1st Community Engagement for inclusion in 2nd engagement sessions  
Development of additional information requirements from feedback & anticipate information needs regarding financial & governance issues

## YEAR TWO- 2022- 2023

Complete Anishinabe law research & report  
Complete dispute resolution research & report  
Completion of developing new child welfare model report  
Present initial draft of law & get feedback to prepare next draft of the law  
Consultation on 1st draft of Anishinabe law  
Costing study and information/data management

## YEAR THREE- 2023- 2024

Consultations on 2nd draft law  
Complete costing study  
Capacity development work on institutional, governance, organizational requirements  
Planning ratification process  
Planning Implementation/transition requirements

## YEAR FOUR AND FIVE- 2024- 2025

Ratification by the rightsholders  
Negotiating Jurisdiction and Funding Agreements  
Implementation & transition.