



Anishinaabe Laws and Customs Research

The Power of Research & Storytelling

The Koognaasewin Project has a team of expert researchers who are focusing on the Anishinaabe laws and customs component of the project. By working with stories, archival research and most importantly knowledge holders in the seven North Shore First Nation communities, they are building a report on Anishinaabe laws and customs around Child Well-Being or Koognaasewin. This report will inform the legislative drafting and reimagining components of the project.

What is Indigenous Law?

Indigenous laws are "intellectual processes of deliberating and reasoning" and "rules that govern behaviours within societies." This work starts from the premise that every group of people holds laws that allow them "to collectively govern themselves." These laws include processes "for solving problems, making decisions, creating safety, maintaining and repairing relationships."



Where can we find Anishinaabe laws and customs around Child Well-Being?

Anishinaabe laws or koogaanawsewin can be found by looking to the earth, to songs, stories, dreams and ceremonies, and by speaking to people about practices of child raising or koognaasewin that have been passed down for generations.



Each time an Elder passes on to the Spirit World a whole body of knowledge passes on with them. If younger people do not take the time to sit with grandparents, uncles and aunties to learn about our origins and thought world, then we are at a loss and a great disadvantage. The Elders are the core transmitters of our unique way of seeing and perceiving the world. They are our guides in this life journey. – Dr. Pamela Rose Toulouse (Sagamok)

Ask our Elders and Knowledge Keepers

Some of the greatest resources of Anishinaabe law that we have are our Elders and knowledge holders.



Archival Research

Our Anishinaabe Laws and Customs research team includes two archival researchers based out of the University of Toronto. They have spent months searching through the archives for written and material sources of Anishinaabe laws around Child Well-Being.

