



REIMAGINING THE CURRENT SYSTEM

All First Nations want to ensure that their children are supported and cared for in their communities according to their own traditions, values and ways.



About the Reimagining Work

The Koognaasewin project team is helping the North Shore First Nations to reimagine what child wellbeing means and how it is achieved. This is no small task and requires the involvement of everyone in the community.

Each North Shore First Nation will determine its own vision for what the future system, policies and processes will be. The Koognaasewin team will support communities with these important conversations. Involvement is needed from all members of the community, including Elders, parents, youth, community workers, and leadership. The illustration below provides a glimpse into this process. Watch for our upcoming surveys and community engagement sessions, coming soon to communities.

We have heard that child wellbeing services and supports need to:

- be grounded in ceremony and Anishinabek values and traditions;
- rooted in knowledge and community strengths;
- based on the relationships that Anishinabek communities and families value;
- provide wrap-around supports to families and children, providing them what they need to flourish
- remove the Ontario Courts and welfare system from the picture and moving to community-based processes.

A NOTIONAL APPROACH FOR REIMAGINING CHILD WELL-BEING:

1. Discovery (Sept 2021-Sep 2022)



- Learn about experiences and perspectives on the child welfare system
- Understand the existing system and programs, including its challenges
- Understand community strengths and plans for the system

2. Vision (Sep to Nov 2022)



- Ensure the community vision for wellbeing is clear, including services, philosophies, public spaces, responsibilities, etc.
- Learn from community members about what they want to see in a child wellbeing system

3. Assessing Needs (Nov 2022- Mar 2023)



- Assess gaps between the current child welfare system and the community vision
- Identify what is needed to realize the community's vision for child wellbeing

4. Designing (2023-2024)



- Design and assess options for the new components of the system

5. Planning (2023-2024)



- Develop the plan to move from today to our vision, including the sequence of activities and capacity building

6. Negotiation (2024-2025)



- Put in place agreements as needed with other service agencies, communities, etc.

7. Implementation (2024, 2025 and beyond)



- Begin to action our plan and move towards our vision