

Update: Nancy Allaire  
Director of Education  
September 3, 2019



The Kinoomaadziwin Education Body remains committed to providing educational supports to our communities with the ultimate goal of ensuring the well-being and success of our students through a number of projects that are underway.

One of the projects is called Aaniish Naa Gegii. It focusses on a tool that the KEB has become familiar with - the Aboriginal Children's Health and Well-Being Measure (ACHWM). \*see more about this in the accompanying brochure. The tool provides an effective way to measure student health and well-being, and to identify students at risk. It is also enables the collection of data to support youth services that are suited to the needs of communities.

In August, the KEB put a call out for community interest in this initiative. The criteria required to participate in the Aaniish Naa Gegii was noted as follows:

- The school must be an on-reserve school
- The school must have a Mental Health Worker on site or regularly available in the community
- Target age group is 8 years to 18 years
- Mental Health Personnel must be available for training by mid September

Nbisiing School – NFN was chosen as a pilot community for the implementation of Aaniish Naa Gegii within the Anishinabek Education System, the following documents are enclosed for reference and sharing in our community:

- ❖ An informational brochure
- ❖ Information forms for parents and students
- ❖ Consent form
- ❖ Sample letter for parents/guardians or students at Nbisiing School

A demonstration of the tool will be provided for Chief and Council upon receipt of tablets.



**HEAD OFFICE**

36 Semo Road  
Garden Village, ON  
P2B 3K2

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Phone: 705-753-2050  
Fax: 705-753-0207  
Website: [www.nfn.ca](http://www.nfn.ca)

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Phone: 705-753-2050  
Fax: 705-753-5841

Public Works  
Phone: 705-753-4167  
Fax: 705-753-6703

September 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our community is a member of the Anishinabek Education System and within this the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body is the supporting organization to all participating First Nations. The KEB remains committed to providing educational supports to our communities with the ultimate goal of ensuring the well-being and success of our students through a number of projects that are underway.

One of the projects is called Aaniish Naa Gegii. It focusses on a tool that the KEB has become familiar with - the Aboriginal Children's Health and Well-Being Measure (ACHWM). \*see more about this in the accompanying brochure. The tool provides an effective way to measure student health and well-being, and to identify students at risk. It is also enables the collection of data to support youth services that are suited to the needs of communities.

Nipissing's First Nation School – Nbisiing has been selected to participate in the following pilot project.

Please see the accompanying materials for the project including:

- ❖ An informational brochure
- ❖ Information forms for parents and students
- ❖ Consent form

We appreciate your support and participation in this project, which helps us to ensure the well-being and success of our students at Nbisiing School! Any questions or concerns can be forwarded to the school principal – Carole Couillard.

Sincerely,

Nancy Allaire

Director of Education  
Nipissing First Nation

Cc KEB REC Coordinator – Lisa Wabegijig

# Aaniish Naa Gegii? (ANG)

In 2011 Mary Jo Wabano, Health Services Director for Wiikwemkoong, and Dr. Nancy Young, Laurentian's Research Chair in Rural and Northern Children's Health, engaged with children of Wiikwemkoong to identify meaningful concepts of health and well-being through a series of full day focus groups. Guided by the medicine wheel, children captured pictures of items around the community to represent what health and wellness meant to them. The outcome was a 62 item questionnaire known as the Aboriginal Children's Health and Well-being Measure (ACHWM). In 2014 the children of Wiikwemkoong gave the ACHWM its Ojibway name: Aaniish Naa Gegii, meaning, "How are you?"

The ANG is a comprehensive health and well-being assessment that enables indigenous communities to understand health from the perspectives of their children. Culturally appropriate in its design, the ANG is reflective of indigenous youth and provides them the opportunity to tell their story. The ANG is completed entirely on an Android Tablet.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Marnie Anderson**  
Research Coordinator  
ECHO Research Centre  
Laurentian University, Sudbury  
Phone: 705 675-1151 ext. 4015  
Email: [mmanderson@laurentian.ca](mailto:mmanderson@laurentian.ca)

## Aboriginal Children's Health and Well-Being Measure



## ACHWM Background & User Agreements

For more information, visit:

[www.ACHWM.ca](http://www.ACHWM.ca)

*The ACHWM has been a collaborative initiative between the Naandwechige Gamig Wikwemikong Health Centre and Laurentian University.*



## What is the ACHWM?

- A 62 item tablet-based health and wellbeing assessment geared for children 8 to 18 years of age.
- Implementation process includes a triage component to connect children at potential risk to local services.

## Key Benefits of the ACHWM

- Gives children a voice in their own health assessment, demonstrating they are heard
- Developed with and for Aboriginal children 8-18 years of age
- Culturally relevant and grounded in the medicine wheel—results report spiritual, emotional, mental and physical health summary scores
- Scientifically sound (valid, reliable and sensitive)
- Tablets engage children
- Automated process enhances feasibility and supports generation of instant individual wellness reports
- Generates quantifiable data useful at the local level to support program planning and funding requests

## ACHWM Types of User Agreements

### How do I get access to the ACHWM?

You or someone from your agency/community need to make a request to the ACHWM team and a user agreement needs to be signed.

### What are the Types of Agreements?

#### *Agreement #1: Research*

Data, results and reports from the ACHWM are the shared property of your community/agency, Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory (WUT) and Laurentian University (LU), and will be stored electronically on a secure server at LU. The results will contribute to research and academic journal articles in the interest of advancing the ACHWM. An automatic generated report is available via the back part of the ACHWM website, with the login of a username and passcode specific to the user

#### *Agreement #2: Collaborative Practice*

Data, results and reports from the ACHWM shall remain the "User's" property. Data will be stored on a secure server at LU, under a stewardship agreement. An automatic generated report is available via the back part of the ACHWM website, with the login of a username and passcode specific to the user.

#### *Agreement #3: Independent Use*

Data, results and reports from the ACHWM shall remain the "User's" property. Data are stored in the tablet and are to be transferred to a computer or server in your community.



The ACHWM is grounded in the Medicine Wheel

## Important Notes

The ANG is completed on an Android Tablet and takes about 15 minutes to complete.

All information is confidential. An ID code is used rather than the child's name on all survey material.

Children with concerning responses are required to meet briefly with a Mental Health Worker in private shortly after the questionnaire has been completed.

The ACHWM tablet app is free of cost and is available once a user agreement is signed between the ACHWM and community/agency leads. The community/agency may be responsible for equipment costs. Ethics approval may depend on local policies.

## Evaluation of the AES with the ACHWM

### INFORMATION ABOUT THIS SURVEY



#### PURPOSES:

- To assess the health and well-being of children and youth between the ages of 8-18 years in your community.
- To improve health care for children and youth in the Anishinabek Education System.
- To improve the Aboriginal Children's Health and Wellbeing Measure (ACHWM) © and to share lessons learned with other communities.

#### PROCESS:

- Children who have appropriate consent will be invited to complete the ACHWM survey.
  - Permission from a parent or legal guardian is required for children under 12 to participate.
  - All children's consent forms will be stored in a secured location in your community. An ID code will be used rather than the child's name on all survey material.
- The ACHWM survey will be completed on a tablet and take about 15 minutes.
  - The children's responses on the survey will be held in confidence within the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body and Laurentian University. A careful review will be conducted of the survey answers. Some children may meet with a Mental Health Worker in private for a brief follow-up conversation. This worker will have access to a one-page survey report for each child. The Mental Health Worker will discuss any concerns within the survey results with the participant to decide if further support would be helpful.
- All of the information about you and your child will be kept confidential.
- Participants will be asked to complete the survey several times. This consent form indicates that your child may complete and repeat the survey over the next two years.
- Parents/Guardians are encouraged to complete the survey in addition to their children. If you are interested, please complete the "Optional Section" on the back of the yellow consent form.

#### REMEMBER:

- Participation is completely voluntary: it is up to you.
- We require signatures from a parent/guardian for children under 12 years to do the survey.
- Individual results will not be provided. The project is about the health of the community.
- If you change your mind about participating, please contact:

**Elizabeth Bigwin**

Special Projects Coordinator  
Kinoomaadziwin Education Body  
705-816-1900  
[liz.bigwin@a-e-s.ca](mailto:liz.bigwin@a-e-s.ca)

Site ID: \_\_\_\_

Staff ID: \_\_\_\_

Child ID: \_\_\_\_

Evaluation of the AES with the ACHWM  
**Consent FORM**



We have read & understand the survey information. We know that we may withdraw at any time.

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to the child: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's birth month is \_\_\_\_\_ Birth year is: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's school: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's gender:  Male or  Female or  \_\_\_\_\_ or  prefer not to say

To be completed by the CHILD or YOUTH

YES I want to participate       NO I do not want to participate

I understand that I may be asked to speak with a Mental Health Worker & I agree to talk to this worker regarding my survey.

Child's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ DD/MM/YYYY

To be completed by the Parent/Guardian (required for all children under 12 years of age)

YES I want my child to participate       NO I do not want my child to participate

I understand that my child may be asked to speak with a Mental Health Worker & I give consent for my child to talk to this worker regarding their survey.

I am the legal parent or guardian of this child.

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ DD/MM/YYYY

**OPTIONAL SECTION: ACHWM Survey for Parents/Guardians.**

In addition to my child's participation, I would also like to complete the survey. I know that I may withdraw at any time if I choose to.

I can be reached by: tel. (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ DD/MM/YYYY

Parent/Guardian's name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Evaluation of the AES with the ACHWM INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



We are asking your child to participate in a community research project.

### PURPOSES:

- To assess the health and well-being of children and youth between 8-18 years of age in your community.
- To improve health care for children and youth in the Anishinabek Education System.
- To improve the ACHWM and to share lessons learned with other communities.

### PROCESS:

- Permission from a parent or legal guardian is required for children under 12 to participate.
- All of the information about you and your child will be kept confidential.
- All children consent forms will be stored in a secured location in your community. An ID code will be used rather than the child's name on all survey material.
- Children who have appropriate consent will be invited to complete the ACHWM survey.
- The ACHWM survey will be completed on a tablet and take about 15 minutes to complete.
- The children's responses on the survey will be held in confidence within Laurentian University and the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body. A careful review will be conducted of the survey answers. Some children may meet with a Mental Health Worker in private for a brief follow-up conversation. This worker will have access to a one-page survey report for each child. The Mental Health Worker will discuss any concerns within the survey results with the participant to decide if further support would be helpful.
- Participants will be asked to complete the survey several times. This consent form indicates that your child may complete and repeat the survey over the next two years.

### REMEMBER:

- Participation is completely voluntary: it is up to you.
- We require signatures from a parent/guardian for children under 12 years to do the survey.
- Individual results will not be provided. The project is about the health of the community.
- If you change your mind about participating, please contact the Community Researcher.

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

#### **Elizabeth Bigwin**

Special Projects Coordinator  
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Telephone: 705-816-1900  
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