



KEB ORGANIZATIONAL REVIEW

In October 2019, the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body (KEB) engaged a consulting firm to conduct an organizational review of the KEB and a governance review of the Anishinabek Education System (AES). The review will identify opportunities to enhance operational efficiencies and maximize on existing structures. Since November, MNP has conducted one-on-one interviews with dozens of AES stakeholders, including KEB Directors and employees, REC Representatives, and leadership. In November and December, a feedback survey was distributed to all Participating First Nations, and more than 100 responses were received by MNP.

In January and February, the KEB Board of Directors continued to work closely with MNP, to ensure the ongoing work of the review. MNP will next meet with the Board of Directors at the end of February, for an engagement session in Phase Two of the review process. This phase of work will enable MNP to develop a preliminary report with recommendations for effective change-management. The final report from MNP is expected to be complete in mid-March 2020.

NIIGAAN GDIZHAAMI FORUM 2020

The 5th annual Niigaan Gdizhaami Forum is taking place next week, on February 25 & 26, 2020 in Toronto. More than 150 participants have registered to attend the two-day conference, which will offer a streamlined agenda and for Participating First Nations and Ontario District School Boards.

This year's forum includes networking sessions for the Regional Education Councils and a keynote address by Dr. Sean Lessard. Rotating workshops on day two will focus on the topics of student transitions, special education and cultural competency training.

Dwayne Pamajewon will lead participants through the two-day agenda, as the master of ceremonies, and youth will be engaged in dedicated youth workshops and activities, while participating in joint workshops as well. A full report on the forum will be available in Spring 2020.

ANISHINABEK NATION GOVERNANCE AGREEMENT - RATIFICATION VOTE

The KEB continues to work collaboratively with the governance team at the Union of Ontario Indians. KEB representatives attended the Anishinabek Nation's Governance Summit in January, and hosted a rotating session that focused on collecting feedback related to the relationship of the two agreements and the process for amalgamating the fiscal agreements. This input will be used to guide the KEB in its collaborative work with the Anishinabek Nation throughout the transition period. Twelve AES First Nations are running ratification votes for the Governance Agreement in February, and several First Nations are expected to proceed with ratification votes in late Spring/early Summer 2020.

MASTER EDUCATION AGREEMENT

The Master Education Agreement with Ontario is nearing its third year of implementation. The agreement includes a Multi-Year Action Plan, which supports a total of 17 collaborative projects and initiatives. Several of these initiatives are reaching notable milestones.

Niigaan Gdizhaami Fund: 23 projects funded in 2019-2020 are well underway, and all projects will be completed by the end of July 2020. The third year of the grant will be released at the end February and will be open for proposal submissions until mid-May.

Language and Culture Reference Group: A Language and Culture Reference Group was recently implemented by the KEB. A call for participation was issued to the Participating First Nations in January and one representative from each REC has been confirmed. The group met in mid-February and is currently providing input on a cultural competency program.

Communications: A [quarterly communique](#) has been jointly developed by the KEB and the Ministry of Education, for distribution among the Participating First Nations and Ontario District School Boards. The communication provides updates and information related to the Master Education Agreement.