

# Newsletter

Weechi-it-te-win  
Family Services  
Abinooji Inakonigewin Project



## First Nation Area Chiefs, and Proxy in Attendance:

Left to right

- Chief Wesley Big George, Anishinaabeg of Naongashiing First Nation
- Chief John Kabatay, Seine River First Nation
- Chief Will Windigo, Nigigoonsimikaaning First Nation
- Chief Wayne Smith, Naicatchewenin First Nation
- Chief Brian Perrault, Couchiching First Nation
- Roy Morrison, Proxy for Chief Janice Henderson, Mitaanjigamiing First Nation

## Relationship Protocol Signing Ceremony

- A Relationship protocol has been established for respecting reciprocity between First Nation Community partners and Weechi-it-te-win Family Services. A signing Ceremony was held on June 30th, 2022 at Naicatchewenin Community Roundhouse to honor the protocol and relationships between Weechi-it-te-win Family Services and First Nation Community Partners

## Abinoojii Inakonigewin Elders Gathering

- Weechi-it-te-win Family Services and the Abinoojii Inakonigewin Consultants hosted an Elders gathering to consult on the Capacity Building Project in Winnipeg, MB on July 13th & 14th.
- In attendance was David Bruyere, Gilbert Smith, Maggy Ottertail, and Agnes Kabatay (Elders). Stacey Boshey, Clarence White, and Freeman Trottier (Drummers). Farah-Lynn Landry, Laurie Rose, and Candace Morrisseau (WFS Staff). Diane Kelly, Lillian Cook and Sherry Copenace (WFS AI Consultants)





A message from  
Shannon Blight,  
Director of  
Nanaandawewenin

Boozhoo. My name is Shannon Blight and I am a proud member of Couchiching First Nation.

I currently supervise the Abinoojii Inakonigewin Project which aims to support First Nation capacity development for jurisdiction and governance of Family Services. Our project workplan is a direct outcome of discussions we've had with our chiefs. We are also exploring how Weechi-it-te-win will transform as First Nations assume jurisdiction and implement their customary laws under Abinoojii Inakonigewin or The Act respecting FN, I, M children, youth and families.

During this last quarter we have been meeting with individual First Nations to hear what they envision for family services within their communities. We will continue to rely on our leaders, our sacred items, and our elders for guidance throughout this process. I look forward to meeting with all First Nations during this upcoming quarter.

## Project Management

- Developing a terms of reference for the internal advisory group
- Additional members to include input from our Board of Directors and community Elders to diversify oversight on objectives

## Engagement

- Weechi-it-te-win Family Services has begun another round of sessions with First Nation Community Partners:
  - > April 27th - Naicatchewenin First Nation
  - > May 21st - Mitaanjigamiing First Nation
  - > May 26th & 27th - CCP Supervisors
  - > July 7th - Big Grassy First Nation
  - > July 25th - Nigigoonsiminikaaning FN
- Weechi-it-te-win Family Services staff engagement sessions were held:
  - > April 26th - Morning Session
  - > April 26th - Afternoon Session
  - > June 6th - Naaniigaan Abinoojii Staff

## Reconstitution of WFS

- Technical Working Group Meetings held to discuss template development:
  - > May 27th & 28th, 2022
  - > July 7th & 8th, 2022