



AAMJIWNAANG FIRST NATION
CHIPPEWAS OF SARNIA
Education Department

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To: Members of Aamjiwnaang First Nation
From: Vicki Ware – Education Coordinator
Re: Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement & Education Constitution
Date: January 26, 2016

This memo is shared to provide information about an education initiative involving Aamjiwnaang.

BACKGROUND

Aamjiwnaang is a member of the Union of Ontario Indians which consists of 39 First Nations forming the Anishinabek Nation. The Anishinabek Nation has been in negotiations for a proposed self-government agreement with Canada for over 20 years to exercise inherent right and jurisdiction over education.

The proposed plan is for the Anishinabek Nation to develop their own education system. The Anishinabek Education System (AES) is intended to make positive advances in:

- Anishinabek student success;
- Increasing graduation rates;
- The development of culturally relevant curriculum and educational programs;
- Effective and efficient financial management and administration of education funding;
- Reliable and relevant First Nation education research, records, reporting and accountability; and,
- Viable education partnerships that support Anishinabek Nation's educational goals.

The majority of Anishinabek students attend school outside of First Nation communities. In order for the AES to be implemented there will also be an agreement in a separate bilateral process with the Province of Ontario, Ministry of Education. To date, 35 First Nations have submitted BCRs to join the initiative.

WHAT

In order to benefit from the Anishinabek Education System, each First Nation must ratify the Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement and Education Constitution by a community vote. Chief and Council have submitted Band Council Resolutions (BCR) with the intent to move to the ratification stage. Community Information Meetings will be organized to keep members informed in the near future. Members' participation in this process is critical.

WHEN

A ratification vote will be scheduled for November 2016.

WHY

The Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement gives recognition of First Nation law-making power and other authority over primary, elementary, secondary and post-secondary education. It offers an opportunity for the Anishinabek First Nations to secure a negotiated level of funding as a grant and moves us out from the federal funding programs and services. The Education Agreement is an opportunity to move forward for Anishinabek First Nations to support student achievement and well-being.

If you have any questions, please contact Vicki Ware, at 519-336-8410 or vware@aamjiwnaang.ca